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FBIS-LAT-89-111 *12 June 1989*

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Cuba

Panama's Solis Palma on 'Friendship, Work Visit'

FL0906173489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received this morning the Most Excellent Mr Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency of the Republic of Panama, who is beginning a 3-day friendship and work visit in our country.

This afternoon, Solis Palma and the high-ranking delegation which accompanies him will begin official talks with Cuban officials at the Council of State Headquarters of the Republic of Cuba. According to sources close to the Panamanian delegation, among the various topics to be discussed during the talks, will be the current situation of the relations between Cuba and Panama, the prospects for technical cooperation in various sectors of the economy, and the assessment by the two parties of international affairs, especially in Latin America.

Minutes before boarding the Panamanian Air Force plane, the minister in charge of the Presidency of Panama, made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Solis Palma] I think it has great significance at this moment. First of all, because we are visiting at the invitation of Commander Fidel and the Cuban Government. Secondly, I think that it is proof of Panama's independence, self-determination, to visit any friendly country which at this moment really shows its support for the process of national liberation we are going through.

[Reporter Nelson Notario Castro] What matters will be discussed during the visit, president?

[Solis Palma] Well, they are matters of a technical nature—aid, cooperation, technology changes, technical cooperation. Despite everything that may be said, in Cuba, there has been a lot of progress in various fields, especially in health, education, and in small industries which would be more in line with us. [end recording]

Brings 'High-Ranking' Delegation

FL0906233789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2303 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Report by Daniel Torres during "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency of the Republic of Panama, arrived in Havana this afternoon. He was received by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Councils of State and Ministers.

The Panamanian leader, who is effecting a friendly and working visit to our country, is accompanied by a group of ministers from his cabinet, as well as other officials of the Caribbean government.

The ministers are: Nander Pitty Velasquez, minister of the Presidency; Luis Olmedo Castillo, minister of agricultural development; Francisco Sanchez Cardenas, minister of health; Gustavo Gonzalez, minister of planning and economic policy; and Francisco Rodriguez, general controller of the Republic of Panama.

The high-ranking Panamanian delegation was also greeted by !sidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations; Manuel Pineiro Losada, chief of the PCC Central Committee's America Department; and Dora Carcano, secretary general of the Federation of Cuban Women.

Mrs Thelma Hasaan de Solis also forms part of the delegation which will remain in Cuba until next Sunday [11 June], according to the timetable. Also at the air terminal were other government and PCC leaders, as well as Manuel Orestes Nieto de Icaza, Panamanian ambassador in Cuba.

Begins 'Official Talks' With Castro

FL0906231989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2304 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Report by Alexis Sotolongo during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] Good evening, Cuba. A few moments ago, the first round of official talks between the Cuban and Panamanian delegations ended. The delegations were presided over by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and the Most Excellent Mr Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency of the Republic of Panama.

Although the meeting was held behind closed doors, unofficial sources have informed me that the meeting was held in a friendly and honest atmosphere, corresponding to the relations between both countries.

As you said Daniel, Solis Palma and the high-ranking delegation which accompanies him were received this morning [as heard] at the Jose Marti International Airport by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, thus initiating a friendly and working visit to our country. The delegation will be here for 3 days.

Tomorrow, the minister in charge of the Presidency of the Republic of Panama, as well as the members of the high-ranking delegation which is accompanying him, have an extensive schedule, including visits to, among other places, the Genetic and Biotechnology Institute, the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical-Surgical Hospital, EXPOCUBA, and the Blas Roca Calderio contingent.

Tours Ameijeiras Hospital

FL1006180889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency of the Republic of Panama, has visited the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical-Surgical Hospital. Accompanied by Cuban Health Minister Julio Teja and hospital director, Dr Raul Gomez Cabrera, the Panamanian delegation began its tour in the conference hall. They saw a film which described the hospital, its modern equipment, and the positive Cuban experiences in transplant techniques.

After exchanging views with Cuban health officials, Solis Palma and his delegation visited the Geriatric Ward on the 23d floor.

[Begin recording] [Video shows woman in hospital gown sitting on bed speaking to Solis Palma and his delegation] [Unidentified woman] I cannot see you because I have cataracts for which I will have surgery but I am very happy you're here because we have learned to love you from our beloved Fidel.

[Solis Palma] We appreciate those words very much. [applause]

[Patient] Long live Fidel!

[Crowd] Viva! [applause] [end recording]

Before the tour through the hospital ended, Manuel Solis Palma gave one of our reporters his impressions of Cuba's health development.

[Begin Solis Palma recording] It's extraordinary. One realizes how disinformation gives people a very different view of reality and distorts everything to maintain, I repeat, the interests of other nations against the will and well-being of a people. [end recording]

Comments on Talks, Visits

PA110601 789 Havana International Service in Spanish 0012 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Report by Barbara Betancourt—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] An intensive schedule of visits and other activities was carried out throughout the day today in Havana by Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, who, as you know, has been in Cuba since yesterday morning, accompanied by several members of the Panamanian cabinet.

Early this morning, Solis Palma and his retinue toured several health facilities in Havana, including the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, which is located near here. He made the following comments to this station:

[Solis Palma] "I must express the great emotion and positive feelings that I have felt, and, above all, I must particularly congratulate the Cuban people for their achievements in the health field. I must, of course, congratulate the Revolution for that human feeling and appreciation that it has devoted to something that is vital to man: health care. I believe that people here feel that they are treated like human beings. They are treated as equals. They are given equal treatment, while, in other places, we pay more attention to financial matters. I bring this up specifically because this facility was originally going to be a bank. I see the logical, humane contrast in changing something that was to be a business center, a place for handling money, into something for public health. I think that this is a very appropriate example demonstrating the dimensions of the Cuban Revolution."

This morning's schedule included a visit to a family doctor's clinic for Solis Palma to see this Cuban institution for primary health care, which has already attracted a great deal of international attention. Solis Palma also visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center. In a brief recess, Solis Palma told the press that he was very pleased with the official talks that he has held with Cuban head of state Fidel Castro.

[Solis Palma] "I feel that talks with Cuban leaders, particularly President Castro, have been very useful. We have heard their recommendations or analyses of the situation in the world and especially in our area, which have given us a much more objective approach to problems we are facing at this time; things always have a different dimension when viewed from a distance rather than from the center of the problem, from which perspective one fails to see many details."

In addition, Solis stressed the heroic position that the Panamanian people have maintained in the face of constant acts of aggression from the U.S. Government.

[Solis Palma] "I believe that a large segment of Panamanian society has a clear idea of its destiny and has become more steadfast in its struggle for national liberation, to perfect nationalism, and to give our country a greater sense of patriotism than at any other time in our history. However, we do have difficulties, and this confuses many people, especially with this savage campaign of disinformation that has been launched against the Panamanian people, their government, and particularly the Panama Defense Forces and Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega. However, we are continuing our fight, and I believe that there is a determination to resist that will make it possible to overcome all the difficulties that are being faced or that might emerge in the future, because we have a common destiny, which is to preserve the Panamanian nation."

Just 2 hours ago, Solis Palma and his retinue completed their schedule of activities for the evening here in Havana. It included visits to the permanent exhibition of Cuban economic and social achievements, better known

as EXPOCUBA, which was inaugurated—as you will recall—on the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. They also visited the installations of the Blas Roca Calderio contingent, the symbol of the new spirit of quality work that currently pervades our country's construction industry. Very soon they will participate in a reception hosted by the Cuban Government, and tomorrow they will visit the Los Naranjos Genetic Enterprise in the neighboring Havana Province. They will return to Panama on Sunday [11 June] afternoon.

Discusses 'Current Situation'

PA1106175389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 11 Jun 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Report by Aladino Zambrano, LA REPUBLICA chief editor]

[Text] Havana, Cuba—Following his first round of conversations with Cuban President Fidel Castro, Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, stated that they discussed in very broad terms the current situation in the Americas. The dialogue also allowed them to voice their opinions concerning the outlook of the world situation and some aspects of the Panamanian situation.

The Panamanian president explained some aspects of the Panamanian situation he feels are of concern to the Republic of Panama. Solis Palma said President Castro feels it is not very prudent to make any commitment on this issue. He only contributed ideas, which the Panamanian president feels are highly valuable in view of Cuba's progress, particularly because Castro has experienced the isolation of the world for 30 years. "In spite of all this, Cuba has always made much progress and has reached a level of development that all countries hope to have," Solis Palma pointed out.

Concerning trade exchange between Cuba and Panama, Solis Palma said these could be intensified in the fields where Cuba could help us, specifically with technical assistance in the field of medicine, in which Cuba has significantly developed.

Referring to his impressions of visiting various regions in Cuba, the Panamanian president said he knew something about them because of reports he had received. The achievements of the Cuban Revolution in the fields of education, health, and social welfare are truly impressive, but the levels of disinformation abroad do not allow one to learn of the magnificent social development for the benefit of the great masses of the Cuban people, he added.

He also said he viewed the scientific and technological development of the Cuban Government and people and the sentiments of the Cuban workers who appreciate and recognize what the people have achieved in the last 30 years.

"In addition to being very pleased with what I saw of the Cuban Revolution's achievements—which are examples for us—I am becoming very concerned about how much Panama still has ahead to do and how backward Panama is in its development," Manuel Solis Palma concluded.

Meets PRC's Qian Qichen

PA1106164689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 11 Jun 89 p 1-A

[Text] Havana, 10 Jun (XINHUA)—Panamanian Minister in charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma and PRC Foreign Minister Quian Qichen, who are both visiting in Cuba, held a friendly meeting here this afternoon.

Both parties exchanged opinions on the future development of friendship between the two peoples and the relations between the PRC and Panama. Both parties also discussed various international problems of common interest, bearing in mind that the internal affairs of each country should be solved in an independent and sovereign matter by that country without any foreign intervention.

PRC's Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Holds Talks With Castro

OW0906175489 Beijing XINHUA in English 1733 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Havana, June 9 (XINHUA)—Cuban President Fidel Castro had a three-hour meeting here Thursday night with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen for talks on the international situation and regional problems.

Castro told Qian that his country shows concern for its relations with China, and that the Cuban people have respect for the Chinese people and harbor feelings of friendship towards them.

Cuba will work together with China for furthering the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, he said.

Referring to China's current internal situation, Castro said the Cuban Government believes that these are China's internal affairs, and that he was convinced the Chinese Government and people can overcome difficulties and solve problems to further the cause of building socialism.

On behalf of Chinese President Yang Shangkun, the Chinese foreign minister invited Castro to visit China. The Cuban leader accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Castro also gave a reception in honor of the visiting Chinese foreign minister before the meeting.

Receives 'Golden Insignia'

FL0906153489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez received yesterday in Havana Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The two officials discussed matters relating to bilateral relations and problems of Latin America in the context of the current international situation.

Yesterday, the Chinese minister received the golden insignia which declares him illustrious guest of Havana City. The insignia was presented to him by Pedro Chavez, president of the provincial assembly of the People's Government.

The Chinese minister also paid a visit to the Cuban Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center.

Returns to Beijing

PA1106134689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1256 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Havana, 11 Jun—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen returned last night from Havana to Beijing, after concluding his tour to Ecuador, Mexico—during a brief stopover—and Cuba. He canceled his visit to the United States, where he was to conclude his tour.

Qian, the first PRC foreign minister to visit in Cuba in almost 29 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations, had been staying in Havana since 7 June but remained completely isolated from the Western media during his bilateral visit.

On 8 June, he was received by President Fidel Castro and held "a useful exchange of information on political, economic, and social aspects of the two countries," the official Cuban media said without giving further details.

Up to now, the Cuban Government has refrained from commenting on the demonstrations in Beijing and other Chinese cities and the repression carried out by the Army.

However, according to a XINHUA report, Castro told Qian this situation is "an internal affair," and that "the Chinese Government and people can solve their difficulties and problems by carrying out the construction of socialism."

According to the same source, Qian presented Castro with an invitation to visit China that was sent by President Yang Shangkun, which the Cuban president "accepted with pleasure" for a date to be set later.

On 8 June, the PRC foreign minister and his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca, signed agreements for the opening of a PRC consulate in Santiago, Cuba—the second most important city on the island, some 900 km east of Havana—and of a Cuban consulate in Shanghai.

Havana Notes Bush Remarks on Panama, China

FL0906205589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] U.S. President George Bush last night reiterated that Washington will normalize relations with Panama only if the chief of the Panama Defense Forces, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, resigns. In his first official news conference since he took office on 20 January, Bush said that the United States problem is with Noriega.

Analysts say that Washington's primary goal is to maintain control over the canal and ignore the Torrijos-Carter agreements. Even though he has no jurisdiction over the OAS commission, he said that this group will remain in Panama until Gen Noriega leaves the country. The commission, appointed on 16 May, extended its mission to reach an agreement between the political forces of that isthmian country.

The crisis in China also comprised a large part of Bush's news conference. In obvious interference, the chief of the White House stressed that relations with that Asian country will be maintained only if its authorities recognize the student's wishes. He expressed his personal displeasure with the violence the Army used against the people in a country—in his opinion—which ignores the decision makers. [sentence as heard]

The suspension of weapons sales to China, announced last Monday, is the correct decision for our government and it has been widely received, he said.

Castro Inaugurates Medical Facilities

FL0806131589 Havana Domestic Radio and Television Service in Spanish 2223 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro during the inauguration ceremony of the expansion of the Joaquin Albarran Hospital and the Nephrology Institute in Havana—live]

[Text] If we were in a sugarcane field we would be very happy for this rain. [laughter] Nevertheless, we are not going to complain because rain is needed. It would be worse if we didn't get rain in June. May was somewhat dry. Let's hope this rain is a symptom or an indication that we are going to have a rainy June. I see this dais needs some drainage [chuckles]; it has filled with water.

Distinguished guests, comrades: I understand that these are not the best conditions to deliver a speech and much less to listen to one. I believe it is going to stop raining. Is that not so? [laughter] I see the sun is coming out unless that cloud behind the hospital decides to come over here. I believe the wind is blowing toward the southwest. Perhaps, we won't have any rain in a few more minutes. I didn't sit down because that chair has practically turned into a swimming pool. [laughter] You don't have to stand. I am not going to be long but, anyway, do what makes you feel better. If you feel better

standing remain standing and if you feel more comfortable seated you can sit down. We have to finish this inauguration ceremony because it cannot be changed to another date. [applause]

I believe the difficulties are not going to diminish the importance of this event and of this inauguration ceremony. We are here.... [changes thought] Of course, I have to explain some things because we have a large group of guests who are holding [corrects himself] or are about to begin a meeting of secretaries for organizational affairs of communist parties in the government. This is why I need to explain certain things.

At the time of the triumph of the Revolution, I believe this hospital had some 200 beds. It is said there was a private clinic on the last floor. Later, the number of beds increased to a little over 300. The hospital had 312 beds when the decision was made to expand it. The Nephrology Institute was inside the old hospital. When the expansion decision was made, it was decided to expand the clinical-surgical hospital and also to build areas for the Nephrology Institute, which was already inside the old hospital. The finished project can be seen today. It is not an expansion as we just said. The size of the hospital tripled. I asked how many beds there were. There were 312 and, later during the construction, 12 more beds were added. So, there were 324 beds in the old hospital. I was told that the Nephrology Institute had 52 beds. The Nephrology Institute went from 52 to 90 some beds and the clinical-surgical went from 324 to 808 or something like that. In total, the number of beds went from 376 to 903.

Not only did the number of beds increase, with blocks and civil construction spreading throughout almost 30,000 square meters of construction, but the power unit is totally new—boilers, electric power generators, etc. The laundry room and other services are totally new. What is the other group of services they have there? [turns to unidentified persons next to him] There are laundry services in three buildings. What? [passage indistinct by unidentified speaker next to Castro] No. What does it have next to it? [passage indistinct by unidentified speaker] It has the power unit and the laundry services there. They are totally new so that was not a matter of increasing but of creating completely new resources to take the place of the existing ones.

I have not mentioned the psychiatric facility. I would have to explain that when this building was under construction a new request appeared. Psychiatric services were several kilometers away from the hospital and a request was made to build a psychiatric wing. We made the effort. We asked the planners to design it and asked the construction workers to build it. So, the psychiatric wing was added later, after the project was under construction.

Now, the old hospital has turned into one of the most modern and best ones in the capital. I should explain that this hospital provided services to a large number of people who live at the other side of the Almendares River.

Old Marianao did not have a hospital. The only hospital in that area was the Finlay, the military hospital. The Finlay Military Hospital is providing clinical-surgical hospital services to the MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] and the population. Most of the services the Finlay Hospital offers are provided to the general population but they are not sufficient.

Of course, that area has a maternity hospital, an ophtalmology hospital—a good ophtalmology hospital—it has a new hospital, the [words indistinct], and is going to have an entirely new children's hospital in a few more days. However, not all the needs of the people who live in the western part of the capital are met. This is why we see that we still need to build a clinical-surgical hospital in the western part of Havana and another one in the east. I also believe that two more children's hospitals are needed in order to have a better distribution of these services in the capital. I believe we would be covered with those four hospitals. We can build more in the future.

The tripling of this Albarran Hospital considerably increases the capabilities and allows to provide a better service to the population, not only to the people who live in the surrounding areas but also to the large population that lives west of the Almendares River.

Not only the clinical-surgical services are improved but, as the director explained here, it has a completely new geriatrics ward. Geriatrics is a term that began to be used as a result of the social development of our country, of the increase in the life expectancy. Thus, this specialty was introduced in our health system to provide services to older men and women. The number of people over 60 years of age is growing considerably at a very high rate. This is why it is very pleasing to be able to visit the services, the room, the ward built with the most modern techniques, with all the things patients that are cared for there need.

The hospital has emergency surgery rooms for multiple trauma cases. The clinical-surgical hospital is complete. Added to this, the Nephrology Institute has completely new areas in a bloc't between the first and the fifth floor. The Nephrology Institute services are also very important. Our country has had a lot of experience in kidney transplants. Hundreds of people have had their lives saved thanks to these transplants. Over 150 a year are performed now.

I talked quite a bit with the director of this Nephrology Institute and asked him what the situation is, what our current needs are. He explained that there are currently 386 people waiting for a transplant. The lives of those people will depend on those services. He also explained about the computer center they have. What is the task of the computer center? To keep up to date the traits of the people who need the transplant. All those people always need to be ready for the time in which a donation is available. It is not known when. In addition, the donor has to be compatible with the patient. Therefore, if an

accident occurs anywhere in the country and a donation is made, this is immediately reported to this center. The traits of the donor are reported and the computers immediately show which patient can be matched with the donated kidney. All this is done very quickly because there is a limited time frame in which the donated organ can be delivered and the transplant performed.

Therefore, this is an extremely useful service and extremely humanitarian one. It is very well organized. However, this is not all. The institute director was explaining to me the development plans for this service. He said we will need around 450 surgeries a year by the year 2000. This is his estimate for the year 2000. I asked him if it would be possible to get all these donations. He estimated the number of people who die in accidents per year, the number of people who die in other kinds of accidents, because of health reasons, in which the organ can be used.

According to the estimates of specialists, our population could perfectly provide the necessary donations to have 450 transplants performed in the year 2000. I kept asking. I kept asking. [repeats] Why does this figure grow if in the year 2000 we will have around 11 million inhabitants? From analysis and the explanations the director gave, I came to the conclusion that these services have been provided within an age limit. More people can be included when the age group, the age limit, is increased.

It was clearly seen, because I insisted a lot in my questions, that we still do not have a complete diagnostic system, that all cases are still not studied enough. If not, I couldn't understand well the 160 transplants performed now versus the 450 that are said are going to be performed later. Age explains it. But it also explains that there are not enough diagnosed cases. In a few words, there are not enough nephrology services in the country.

This led us to the discussion on the number of kidneys and the number of dialysis machines needed by the year 2000 and the number we have now. Perhaps this figure will have to be analyzed, perhaps the Nephrology Institute has exaggerating somewhat. They say we will need around 300 kidneys or more by the year 2000. I asked how many do we have now. I was told that around 80 machines are needed for what they call dialysis. All those people who need to wait for a transplant or for reasons other than transplants, because there are patients with illnesses who need dialysis and those people need a systematic treatment in order to extend their lives.

We already manufacture these dialysis machines. The director of the institute mentioned an obstacle. He said: Yes, we are manufacturing the dialysis machines but the technology of our dialysis machines are 20 years behind. Apparently, the technology is of 1970 and we understand this because we never sacrifice quality. I asked the minister, do the dialysis machines that are being manufactured solve anything? He said: Yes, they do although they do not use the latest technology.

Nevertheless, the equipment installed in this institute and that being installed in other hospitals are imported. I believe our medical industry can attempt to update itself in the construction of this type of equipment as soon as possible in the same way we are doing in other types of equipment in which we are more advanced than other countries. We exhibited some equipment in the Health for All fair that is not produced in other countries. We have been the first ones to introduce them.

In addition, as a principle, we never sacrifice quality of services. If the service of one of these pieces of imported equipment is better, we always opt to import the equipment and do not insist in using our equipment. Those dialysis machines began to be manufactured a number of years ago and I believe we should continue working until we get a high-quality prototype.

The director of the institute talked about the equipment he thought was better and, in fact, that equipment are being purchased. But I pressed him to answer what are the immediate needs. I asked him: What are the immediate needs? How many more dialysis machines would we need in the country? And he finally answers: around 50.

I realize that not all those who need them are receiving dialysis services. This is the truth. I made a sharp criticism. This is the truth. I told him: We have met four times in the last 4 years. We met at the Council of State at the end of 1985. We met in 1986, in 1987, and in 1988. We have met four times and in any of those meetings—this is a new director, there was another director then—but nobody said there what had to be said. Dialysis services are not being provided to all the people who need them. I asked: What happens to a person who needs dialysis services and does not receive them? Well, that person can die. I asked: How can we make plans until the year 2000 if you say that you need 22 per year? How are we going to plan how many people are going to die? How is the decision made regarding who receives the services and who doesn't? They have quotas according to age and illnesses, according to the case.

I am truly hurt to learn that there are people who need dialysis services and do not receive them. I was saying that this type of problem is a result of technocratic or bureaucratic mentalities. I asked the director: Who did you tell about the needs? He answered: Well, to the leadership of the services, to the ministry. Why in those meetings—in which we analyzed many problems the hospitals have, tens of problems, I would say that hundreds of problems—the fact that we needed more dialysis machines was not mentioned? I was saying that the country should be given the chance to say if it can or cannot get them. If the country cannot get something, it does not get it. We didn't have heart transplants for

many years and we later got them. We did not have extracorporeal litholapaxy for many years simply because that equipment did not exist.

We didn't have axial scanners for many years either because they did not exist or we couldn't purchase the ones we needed. We didn't have the nuclear magnetic resonance machine for years. It didn't exist either. Sometimes we do not have equipment because it doesn't exist or there are no resources available to purchase it. But the country should have the chance to decide whether it does or does not have the resources to purchase 50 more dialysis machines.

Of course, this is not the only factor. There is another factor which they explained. They need to consider the factor of available trained personnel. There is the factor of creating the services. There is the factor of creating the conditions in various hospitals.

We have created many programs in the last few years. We did not have litholapaxy services and now we have them in several provinces. The staff was trained. We didn't have intensive care rooms in children's hospitals. After the dengue epidemic, over 50 intensive care rooms were created in the country in less than 2 years when we realized how important it was for the children's health. Now all our children's hospitals have intensive care rooms. A program was created to train the staff and purchase the equipment. We did not have perinatal intensive care services in the country. There is already a program underway and the staff is being trained quickly. Perinatal intensive care services are being created in children's and maternity hospitals. We didn't have intensive care services in clinical-surgical hospitals. A program is underway to purchase the equipment and to provide intensive care services in all clinical-surgical hospitals. I remember that ultrasound was not used a few years ago. Tens of hundreds of people were trained in a short period of time, the equipment was purchased and ultrasound services were provided in all maternity and other hospitals.

We cannot say the same thing. Now we know that there are not enough dialysis services in the country. The country has to decide whether it has the resources or not, if it can or can't create them and where those services need to be provided. The health minister was explaining to us that all the new hospitals that are being inaugurated already have those services, in Moron, in various places, and in all the ones that are under construction. I believe we should analyze the situation, make a serious analysis, without exaggerations. I know about the sectarianisms of specialties. We need to analyze the needs. We cannot do nothing if we are told that a certain man is not on the list, is not within the quota because there are not enough services. If there is not enough trained staff, it should be trained fast.

Thousands of doctors are graduating. This year, 3,600 doctors will graduate. In 1990, 4,000 will graduate. Don't tell me that we cannot create an emergency program to train the staff that is needed for these services. We cannot wait for the year 2000 to create a little program to get 20, 15, 12, or 14 more dialysis machines per year. In fact, the visit we just paid to the laboratory and the [word indistinct] center, and as a result of the questions I made there, I realize that we have this situation with the dialysis services.

In the area of health, there has been no discovery, there isn't anything that our country has not attempted to put at the service of the population as soon as possible. How much has this cost us in investments and efforts to have, for example, the children's heart surgery hospital? We already have one of the biggest, undoubtedly one of the biggest, and one of the best ones in the world. Nobody knows how many lives have been saved. There is nothing in the world....[changes thought] This is why we have an international fair on medical equipment and new medical technology every year. This is why we travel.

We had the fight against meningococci meningitis type B. It was a threat to each family in this country, especially for children. We began to work and we developed the vaccine against meningococci meningitis type B, in a few years. Our research centers are working on new medical research projects. Our information centers are working in the search for new information. Our health delegations travel throughout the world in search of everything that could be useful for our people. This is the principle that is applied. Each citizen can have the chance of having the best medical attention. This is not always understood. I am not going to talk about this now. Perhaps there will be a day in which there aren't as many drenched people and we can discuss some situations I know exist and why they exist.

Some talk about the family doctor. Some have even complained about the money spent in medical services. I could ask, where do those little gentlemen who complain about this get their medical services? Sure, their medical services are guaranteed and their children have their services guaranteed. The same goes for their mother, father, or brother. He who has a conscience and knows what it is to have a sick child will be eternally grateful to the Revolution that all children's hospitals have intensive care services at this time. [applause] He who has a relative who needs a kidney transplant and his life is saved will be grateful all his life to the Revolution for those services. The same thing goes for the person who has to send a relative to a surgical intensive care room or his wife, sister, or daughter has to go to a maternity hospital with those perinatal intensive care services—they have different names, I call them like that in an attempt to make the concept uniform—or for a person who gets an illness diagnosed early and his life is saved.

For example, in order to diagnose an illness a few weeks early we are purchasing expensive equipment and be able to provide services to the entire population. All the

women in the country can have the certainty that they can have the minimum kind of intervention when the illness is diagnosed early on rather than having to undergo a radical surgery. All women in this country will be grateful for what is invested on this [applause] or what is invested in research centers and in the development of a vaccine that saves hundreds of lives, or for having the best medical services.

Undoubtedly, the best hospital in this country is the Hermanos Ameijeiras. This hospital has the most developed techniques. This is not a hospital for leaders but a hospital for the people. [applause] This one, the Joaquin Albarran, will undoubtedly be one of the best hospitals in the capital because of the services and equipment it has. It is not a hospital for leaders. It is a hospital for the people. The Miguel Henriquez Hospital that we inaugurated not so long ago is one of the best hospitals in the country. It is a hospital for the people. The one we inaugurated recently, the (Lebredo) maternity hospital, is a hospital for the people and is the best maternity hospital in the country because of its technology. There are other maternity hospitals that have excellent doctors. There are maternity hospitals that have excellent doctors [repeats] but do not have the new installations, the new, expensive and even luxurious, if you like, installations this hospital has. The same thing happens with all the hospitals we are building.

Who goes to the (Lebredo) hospital? First, the residents of Arroyo Naranjo, which was one of the poorest municipalities in our country. We have to be proud and satisfied for being able to say that the best maternity hospital in the country is there, in that municipality, one of the poorest ones in the capital, a municipality of workers. People from El Cotorro, Calabazar, Bejucal, Quivican, Batabano, and other nearby neighborhoods go there.

This is the policy and the line followed by the Revolution and only those who do not feel like the people, those who have some pretense of being privileged can complain about it, only those. They do so because there are some things about the rectification process and the successes of the rectification process that hurt them. They pull each other to pieces. There are also those who complain about the family doctors. I also know this.

The family doctors program is one of the most advanced institutions. There are countries that are beginning to implement this program because of the results obtained in Cuba. The governor of Sao Paulo began to build family doctors' office-houses or offices modeled after the ones in Cuba. This institution is admired by the world. A few days ago, a news cable from the Soviet Union included remarks made by the Soviet public health minister saying that 85 percent of those who graduate from medical school will work as family doctors in the future. This would be the fundamental basis for primary health care.

In our country, the people didn't even want to go to polyclinics in the past. They crowded hospital emergency units. Now they'd rather go to the family doctor than to a polyclinic. Visits to polyclinics dropped by 20 percent. Now, hospital emergency units are not saturated because of family doctors. Results are impressive in every area. They have organized older people in clubs and have gotten them to exercise. They have carried out preventive programs against a number of illnesses. No important health program is created in the country without the cooperation of the family doctor. This places us in a privileged position in the world.

It is truly a privilege for a country to be able to have this institution, the first one in the world. Other countries are already trying to implement this program. This has been made possible because of efforts made in the health sector for many years and because of the training of doctors. The family doctor program is practically impossible to implement in capitalist countries in the massive way we do. A capitalist country can do this in a poor neighborhood because there is no competition with private doctors. But it is impossible to take the family doctor system to a capitalist country. It would cause war in the country and an insurmountable clash of interests. Since we have socialism we can have this institution, we can create it and take it forward.

Those who complain, I know who they are, have in their heads—what do they have in their heads?—ideas borrowed from others; they have a lot of cheap theory in their heads. They lack wisdom and practical sense. They lack feelings of solidarity with the people. They don't care if the offices are full of people. They do not care.

I know about institutions that have more people than needed and people earning high, very high salaries. They practically have nothing to do. I do not know what happens if I compare what some of those gentlemen do with what a Blas Roca contingent worker does. [applause] They are not concerned that there are thousands and up to hundreds of thousands of workers working harder. They are not concerned about the battle we wage to maximize personnel rosters, to use the broad profile concept, to increase the number of direct workers in production and services, and to decrease the number of indirect workers as we have been able to do in a number of institutions.

We waged a battle to reduce the ratio of workers per beds in Havana hospitals. Almost all of them have a 1.7 worker-bed ratio—it used to be 2.2 or 2.3. Minibrigades have been formed basically by the surplus personnel from factories. I am sure that nothing happens if we remove 1 worker out of every 8 of the 800 000 workers in the capital.

Inflated personnel rosters exist in socialist countries and in capitalist ones. They exist in socialist countries because of paternalism and in capitalist ones because of the struggle of workers, the just struggle of workers, who

are always trying to get something out of capitalists, trying to find one more position. We do not have this conflict of interests in our society and we can fight to maximize resources.

I have said it 20 times. Instead of having underutilized persons, lets train teachers, professors, technicians, doctors, and nurses. Our Revolution can do it [applause] and is doing it. It is fighting to achieve a rational use of human resources. That's what universities are for. Someone in a corner doing nothing. Instead of having someone in a corner doing nothing, which costs society anyway, it is better to train that young person so he can be useful to society. The more productivity is achieved through the application of technology in material production, the better society will be able to use a large part of its human resources in those services. Medical services are, of course, among them.

We also have thousands, over 20,000, who have graduated as physical education and sports teachers. We have them throughout the country. Is it not better to have a young person teaching physical education than losing time in a corner doing nothing? Who is going to argue with this?

Those with ideas borrowed from others, those who like to copy from others [rephrases] If they let them keep copying, they will sink this country, they will sink it, because they were sinking it. This savior rectification process came just in time to put an end to so much foolishness and so much idiocy. [applause]

We are talking about our country's advances in the field of health and we should be satisfied with it. We have a lot of work to do. We could say it is enough. But no, what we have done is not enough.

We will inaugurate the intermediate intensive care room within a few days. It is a great project at the Salvador Allende Hospital which has been transformed through the effort of its workers and has also turned into one of the best hospitals in the country. But it is not enough. We will inaugurate the Marianao children's hospital soon. This is going to be the most modern one in the country. But it is not enough.

We have seen that the capital needs two more children's hospitals and two more clinical-surgical hospitals. We are not going to build them tomorrow because we have other tasks and other economic investments. There has to be a balance between economic investments and hospital investments since all this costs so much.

Dialysis for any citizen costs around $2,000 a year in imported components. A heart transplant or simply any type of heart surgery costs thousands of dollars in imported elements. Surgery at the Children's Heart Surgery Center costs thousands of dollars. A litholapaxy costs hundreds of dollars. In sum, many of these services cost foreign currency and we have no other choice than to find a balance between what we build for one thing and another. However, we will not stop building hospital facilities. The city needed polyclinics. There were 20 of them in old installations and they were in very poor condition. They have been replaced by very modern and efficient facilities.

Physical therapy services are being placed in all those polyclinics. Those services used to be provided only in one hospital. I didn't mention the advances achieved in the Julito Diaz Hospital and the expansions being done there to provide services to those who have problems, who have suffered accidents—the handicapped—to rehabilitate them. Physical therapy services are going to be taken to all polyclinics. Every new one has those services.

We could say the same thing about dental clinics. Each one of those polyclinics has one. Twenty polyclinics are being built. They are supposed to be completed this year. I have been asking the party, the people's government, and the minibrigade comrades if we are going to finish or not the 20 polyclinics we need.

We are building a number of special education schools. Yes, we are building them. They are being built in the capital. We will also attempt to complete them this year. They are not all completed yet. Most of them are being built. These are to satisfy the needs of our people. This is understood by those who had the misfortune of having a child who could not talk and needs one of those schools, or by a family who has a child with sight limitations and has to send him to one of those institutions, or with some mental retardation problem of some type. Only the thoughtless can oppose to this. Only those who are incapable of feeling anything, even a bit of solidarity with the people, can oppose this. We will continue fighting against these social problems. This is what justifies the Revolution's reason for being. We will continue struggling for the development of the country.

There are a lot of needs. There are a lot of needs [repeats] and we have examples of them every day. Yesterday I was touring some projects under construction. I went to the market centers [mercados concentradores], which are new institutions. They are doing the earthwork. It was in the afternoon. It was during the only time and the only day of the week in which the Blas Roca contingent does not work. They work on Sundays until noon. It was in the afternoon and nobody was there. The equipment was very well organized. There was a watchman.

I went to see one of the eight terminals we are building. I later went to a cement warehouse that the people's government is building at our request. I said: Our construction projects have to be interrupted quite often when a furnace has a problem. We have to build a cement reserve. It is essential so that no project under construction is paralyzed. I went to see the warehouse. It is being built near the national highway. I had already gone there once. I found that the residents of Korea, as they call the substandard neighborhood, were building

the warehouse. They invited me to go to their neighborhood. I asked them if they were building housing. They said yes, they are building housing.

Yesterday, when I was leaving the warehouse under [illegible] residents there, a family was greeting us, and I saw some shabby little houses and said: I am not going to go to the neighborhood yet but I am going to visit some neighborhood residents [words indistinct] Korea neighborhood. I entered one of the houses in which the residents make in the so-called substandard neighborhoods. What do I find there? A whole world. I found that 21 people live in a shabby little house made out of any available pieces of board. I made a sociology study right there. I had no choice.

I said: I need to learn about this. I went to each room. I asked: How many sleep in this bed? The beds were not bad—at least they had matresses. I was told: Well, three here and four there; three here and two there; the parents sleep here and the two children in those beds there. Those were the conditions.

I went to the kitchen and saw what they were cooking. I sat there and talked with them for a long while. I asked them about their lives, about everything they did, the problems they have. Of the 21, 8 people were working. Practically all the adults were working, except the head of the family who does not work anymore. I estimated the income and it was over 1,000 pesos. There should be no problem with income. There is even a teacher among the ones living there. She is about to finish her bachelor's degree. They hold various jobs in different types of activities, in the social construction minibrigade, among them. That is, it is a family unit of workers.

I investigated a little about where they came from. Of course, I didn't have to ask many questions. They all came from Oriente. [laughter] Some came many years ago. They came from America Libre, close to Contramaestre. They even come from the mountains. They have been here for some time. They came in different years. One of them is a vanguard, the youngest one. I don't know if he is 16 or 17; he is vanguard at the social minibrigade. That one came a year ago. He came over more recently.

I looked and looked again and saw all those knickknacks, all those boards and thought about the number of people who live under those conditions. It is not that we do not know about it, we know about it. But as it is known well, I was touring a substandard neighborhood. This is not the first time I toured a substandard neighborhood. This was not a tour. It was just a peak at the neighborhood. It is not the first time I toured places such as the so-called tenement dwellings and I went into a room where people live to see how many live there and what they do. This is necessary. It is necessary for our own learning process; it is necessary for our permanent duty of being aware of problems. It is necessary to see what these neighborhoods are, and what our situation is.

Is this the situation in Latin America? No. In Latin America, there are many capitals in which—I don't want to mention names— 60 percent of the population lives in substandard neighborhoods, 60, 50, or 40 percent. In our capital, the part of the population that lives in substandard neighborhoods does not reach 3 percent. We have the figures. This is for substandard neighborhoods. I am not including tenement dwellings. I am talking about those that are called substandard neighborhoods composed of improvised shabby houses. Around 3 percent of the population lives in them. This 3 percent amounts to some 60,000. They are not 4, they are 60,000.

We have been struggling. Substandard neighborhoods were eliminated at the beginning of the Revolution. They were created again and we ended up with this 3 percent. One asks: Why do unhealthy neighborhoods exist? In Latin America it is known that it is because of underdevelopment, the lack of programs, the neglect of the interior of the country. The people looking for opportunities in the capital create a huge tragedy. We cannot be satisfied with the idea that 3 percent of the citizens live under those conditions in the capital. We would not be revolutionaries if we [Castro's voice cracks]—I heard a squawk, let's see. I hope the rain doesn't leave me without a voice now. I was saying that we would not be revolutionaries if we simply resigned ourselves to know that 60,000 live under those conditions. We have been fighting against this.

It is good that we have an answer for it. Imagine how it would have been to enter a substandard neighborhood 4 years ago when the minibrigades had not re-emerged. What kind of hope were we going to give the people? Two or three were working in a social minibrigade in that same 21-member family unit. They are making a living this way. They are building their own housing. Now we can at least give them that as an incentive, a hope.

You are going to ask me: Why do some of these neighborhoods exist even in Cuba? There are also some of these neighborhoods in Santiago de Cuba. They are struggling to eliminate them. If we have 3 percent in the capital it is because the Revolution has worked in the rest of the country, developing the rest of the country. But I ask myself: Have we done enough?

A technocrat asked me for a good house. Can he think about a way to find a solution for substandard neighborhoods? Can he think about it? [applause] Technocrats were the ones who waged a war against minibrigades. This was the answer we had found almost 20 years ago to eliminate substandard neighborhoods and tenement dwellings. We had found a good solution, but they did not stop waging their war in the name of Marxism-Leninism. This is what I have heard. They did it in the name of textbooks and theories taken from economic books and in the name of their bourgeois, petite bourgeoisie, and neocapitalist inventions.

They waged a war with their capitalist mechanisms in the name of Marxism-Leninism [applause] to one of the most revolutionary things and most Marxist-Leninist things such as minibrigades. They undoubtedly had good [illegible] The problem does not lie in whether or not they had a good house but that they never in their lives visited a tenement, never in their lives visited a substandard neighborhood, never in their lives were in contact with the people and found out about their problems and needs. [applause]

One does not have to live in a substandard neighborhood; one does not have to live in a substandard neighborhood [repeats] to know what a substandard neighborhood is, to know they exist, and to be aware of the need to find a solution even to 3 percent of the population.

We can do it. I do believe we can do it. I believe the country is now doing excellent things to prevent substandard neighborhoods from emerging. An example of this is the Turquino plan, the construction projects underway in the country's mountains to improve their conditions and repopulate the mountains. Towns are being built in cane, cattle, tuber, and vegetable enterprises. The Revolution has an ambitious housing construction program, the ambitious program of construction material development. We all know that what we need are materials because there are enough arms to build all the housing this country needs. [applause]

Minibrigades are showing this. Minibrigades are showing this. [repeats] We already have 35,000 men and women in the capital in minibrigades alone. There has been enough force to help in Bluefields, to help the Nicaraguans repair the damages caused by the hurricane. There are about 300 minibrigade members from the capital there fulfilling an internationalist mission. [applause] But 35,000 are left here and they know that the only thing delaying construction in general today is the lack of material. The movement is so powerful that they do not need anything else. This is why we are carrying out the program and the important investments that are being made in the construction material industry.

A few days ago, I visited the (Curio) stone mill in Villa Clara with the capacity to grind 200,200 cubic meters of sand and stone. A few days ago I visited La Molina stone mill located at the west of the capital. This stone mill is going to produce 600,000 cubic meters of stone and sand. I visited the Artemiza cement factory. We are in contact with the cement factory workers. We are considering everything that can be done immediately to increase production. In addition, we are getting new lines into operation to considerably increase cement production. We are also saving, or trying to save, cement and trying to save wood to be able to build much more.

I am sure we will make it. We will build new housing every year. Construction will grow in quantity and quality every year. They will be completed just as construction projects are already being completed. This hospital was built in only 2 years, in 2 years. [repeats] I can remember when the foundations were being laid, when the 900 piles were being placed. I used to come here and it hurt to think of the noise [illegible] when the piles were being placed. I thought about the patients in this room. The hospital went up to here. I said: We need to speed this up, we have to finish this hospital soon. Construction cannot go on for 10 years next to a hospital where there are patients and treatment is going on. I urged the workers to work well, fast, and with quality. Notice that they finished the hospital in record time.

It could be completed in the same way the Miguel Henriquez was completed, in the same way the intensive and intermediate care rooms of the Allende Hospital were completed, in the same way the beams in Marianao's Children's Hospital were placed. They have almost completed it. This last one has not been inaugurated because some elevators have not arrived yet. This is why it has not been inaugurated. The polyclinic will be operating soon. The civil construction was not delayed. It was built quickly.

I say there will be construction every year and more housing. I am absolutely certain that we will eliminate the substandard neighborhoods in a relatively short period of time with the work of the residents of the area. I am certain that we will eliminate tenement dwellings with a little more time and we will have the apartments the city needs.

The most important thing is, what needs to be done in the rest of the country to prevent our migration situation? I have asked this in the eastern provinces. We have to focus industrial development, not in the capital but in the rest of the provinces. In general, this has been done but not enough.

The population of Oriente was growing almost 3 percent more than in the eastern provinces. Havana was growing 1 percent. This was its population, not the one that was coming in. As you see, Bayamo.... [incomplete sentence as heard] Some 2 years ago, I mentioned this problem and the policy we are implementing is that we develop as many industries as possible in the eastern provinces. We are doing it. There will not be the temptation of moving to the capital as we create living conditions.

I recently told some residents that life in the provinces of the interior is calmer, it is more peaceful. I believe that we can create conditions in the interior that are better than the ones in the capital. They have been created. See how the university schools are spread throughout the provinces in the country. See how the medical schools are located in all the provinces in the country. See how there are clinical-surgical, maternity, and children's hospitals of great quality in all provinces in the country. There are exact sciences vocational schools in all the provinces in the country. There are sports schools, Camilito schools, physical education teachers' schools, other teachers' schools, and pedagogic schools in all the provinces.

I see it in many provinces. I get the feeling of a calmer life, even a more pleasant life than that of the capital. I [illegible] have plenty of water because a large river goes by. It is not the same thing to supply water to a population of 2 million in a narrow strip 40-km wide in which, as I said recently, the water used in the agriculture that feeds the population and the water the population needs are in competition. It is not the same thing to have a city of 200,000 or 250,000 inhabitants or 150,000 as it is to have a city of 2 million. There are problems in the supply of water, foodstuffs, services in general, transportation, etc. We are in perfect condition to apply an even development policy and, thus, prevent all these problems. They have been prevented to a great degree but not enough.

Santiago de Cuba is also a city that is growing quite a bit. It has around 500,000 inhabitants. Things are getting difficult for it but it still has water. It not only has enough water to use but even to waste. It has to be said that water is not used well in the country. It is wasted everywhere. We built a factory of water meters. It is producing around 70,000 water meters a year. We are using them in the capital where we have more problems. Santiago used to have a very small dam called Charco Mono. Now it has a dam in the Cauto River. When it runs out of water it gets it from the Contramaestre. We started building the Bacono Dam. In time, a good number of water meters will have to be sent to Santiago to measure and charge the excess water use. The water we charge is the one that is wasted not the one that is used rationally.

The cities in the interior have different problems and we are stepping in at the right time. We are getting rid of—and have to struggle to completely get rid of—the social tragedy Latin American capitals and large cities have.

We will soon have to meet again. Two more large facilities and a number of polyclinics need to be inaugurated. I think the evening finally cleared up a little. It is still thundering and there are still some clouds around. I think we have all dried up together here. I believe that we are going to be spared the catching of a cold or the flu. If unfortunately we catch a cold we can come running to this same hospital. We are already friends with the .... [incomplete sentence as heard] I hope that the ones who participated in this [applause] in this inauguration can be treated here even though we do not live in Puente Grande or Playa. I warn you that more than a hospital it looks like a hotel. For those who believe a cold is not good when you reach a certain age, do not forget that the best geriatrics service in the country at the moment is located here. [applause]

I congratulate the construction workers, I congratulate the construction workers. [repeats] The engineer here talked on behalf of them. We are grateful for their efforts. They already formed a contingent. They won this right here. They also have fresh troops.

This is one of the reasons I did not mentioned when I talked about migration. The Construction Ministry brought people from Oriente here so they could help in [illegible] construction projects in the capital. [illegible] ple here. People from Granma are working here although they came pledging that they would return to Granma. I would like to know that if we did a poll, how many have fulfilled this pledge and how many found a girlfriend here? [laughter] It is not that I am against the men from Granma falling in love with a girl from Havana, but I say: Take her to Granma. [laughter]

I met with a minibrigade 2 or 3 days ago. They were building a housing building. A gal was telling me about her tragedy. I am not going to mention her name although I don't think this is going to hurt anyone. It is a good example. She was telling me that she apparently had problems with the in-laws and they had to leave the in-laws' house. I imagine that this kind of problem happen once in a while. Not all in-laws are good. Most of them are but not all. Well, that's what they say. Not all daughters-in-law and sons-in-law are good. Don't you think that way?

I met this gal. She was working hard. It was during a nonworking Saturday in the afternoon. She was working hard there. She talked to me for a while and explained to me her tragedy. She has three children. They are down-and-out. She almost cried. I told her: Don't cry because we are not going to solve the problem with tears. We need to solve the problem with work. Be patient, I said. I asked her: Where were you from? Well, I am almost identifying here if I give more information. [laughter] Well, I can say the province. She is from Camaguey. I asked her: From what municipality? I am not going to say this one [laughter] because she will be identified. It is not a bad thing if she is identified because she is a fantastic gal, a fantastic worker and she is representative of a problem but I did not ask her permission to use the anecdote. She said: From such town. I asked her: How did you end up here in Havana? She said: I got married. My husband is from here and works in such a place. So, the matter is that they got married and he brought her to Havana. So, we not only have the people from Oriente who come to work here, fall in love in Havana, and stay in Havana but also the ones from Havana who go and visit other provinces, fall in love, and bring their bride here. [laughter] They have three children. We were thinking how they could be helped while some of those houses are finished. They are separated. There are a lot of those problems.

The problem has always gotten worse because of migration. We must have a policy and discipline. This is not a matter of preaching or passing laws, although some rules can be established or something of the sort. Maybe there could be more strict rules regarding this. It is a matter of proportional development, equal development of all the areas in the country. It is a matter of the work we perform in the rest of the country.

This is why.... [changes thought] Speaking of these people from Granma who helped us build the hospital, it is really something that we needed the help of the people

They are still finishing some of these projects. A more rational policy is being made. We will have to take many to Varadero because dozens of hotels need to be built there. This is the case in other places, in the keys.

But Havana, with 2 million inhabitants, with so many healthy and young people and so many skilled workers, so many retired people, who want to do voluntary work, so many students who make their contribution as they did here—it has to be noted that university students, students from the institutes, and organization employees worked tens of thousands of hours—the help of the people from Oriente was needed. At the end, people

inces represented in this project.

At the same time that we thank them and congratulate them, we remind them that there is nothing more beautiful than the love for the piece of land where one is born. [laughter, applause] We hope, we hope [repeats] that the commitment is fulfilled, that the pledge is fulfilled, and that they take their brides to the eastern provinces. [laughter] Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

Costa Rica

Arias Reacts to Killing of Salvadoran Minister

PA0906184189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1734 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez has said he is "alarmed" over the assassination of Antonio Rodriguez Porth, Salvadoran minister of the Presidency, by suspected urban guerrillas early this morning in San Salvador.

Arias told ACAN-EFE that he fears "increased violence" in that country.

Rodriguez Porth, an influential leader of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, is the first minister to be assassinated by the guerrillas since the Salvadoran conflict began almost 10 years ago.

Rodriguez Porth, 65, was killed at 0815 (1415 GMT) near his home in San Salvador, along with two of his bodyguards, only 8 days after taking office on 1 June.

For his part, Luis Guillermo Solis, chief of the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry cabinet, denounced the assassination and said that "it undoubtedly means that the situation in El Salvador is becoming more acute, and it makes an agreement between the political forces and the guerrillas more difficult."

Actions like these "irreparably harm" efforts to achieve a negotiated peace in that country, the official said. He expressed hope, however, that the Salvadoran situation will not deteriorate further.

Government Withholds Ambassador to Panama

PA0806202389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1933 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] San Jose, 8 Jun (DPA)—The Costa Rican Government announced today that it will not send an ambassador to the Republic of Panama "as long as the present situation persists."

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, speaking to a group of Costa Rican newsmen by telephone from Washington, said: "The ambassador appointed to Panama, Jorge Emilio Regidor, will not take his post pending further official instructions."

Madrigal Nieto added: "Costa Rica maintains its position on the Panamanian issue, the same position that it held a month ago after elections were held in that country and the people's will was disregarded."

The Costa Rican foreign minister said in closing: "It was not possible to hold the meeting of Central American foreign ministers scheduled for today and tomorrow because of the conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua resulting from the charge levelled against Honduras by Nicaragua. That is an impediment to the meeting. Moreover, the Guatemalan foreign minister is very busy in his capacity as member of the OAS delegation that is studying the Panama case."

El Salvador

Government Confirms Assassination of Minister

PA0906170089 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1500 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpts] We have confirmed the attack on Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, a top leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], a deputy in the previous assembly period, and a prominent business leader who was a long-time member of ANEP [National Association of Private Enterprise—FBIS] and the Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce. We have also confirmed that Rodriguez Porth died at the Saldivar Clinic.

As we reported initially, the attack occurred at La Mascota neighborhood. He was then taken to Saldivar Clinic where we confirmed that he died as a result of bullet wounds.

A Presidential Palace spokeswoman confirmed that the Presidency minister died following an attack at approximately 0815 this morning. Here we have some statements by this spokeswoman:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified spokeswoman] Unfortunately, we do not have any more additional information. I can only confirm that he died.

[Reporter] Did he die immediately after the attack or instantly?

[Spokeswoman] I do not know. A doctor called from the clinic to report his death, but he gave me no details regarding how it happened or whether he died instantly or at the clinic. I do not know. [end recording]

This report confirms the death of Presidency Minister Dr Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, who was killed during an attack by alleged FMLN urban guerrillas. Dr Rodriguez Porth's driver and one of his bodyguards were also killed during the attack. Reporter Carlos Argumedo has details:

[Argumedo] The attack took place at 0815 on La Mascota Street, as he was leaving Santa Tecla District. Dr Rodriguez Porth was seriously wounded in the attack and rushed to Saldivar Hospital, where all efforts were made to keep him alive. These efforts, however, were not successful. Two of his bodyguards were also killed, as we previously reported.

We have received reports confirming the death of business leader Dr Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, an old man devoted to politics who ran for president as a candidate of the Salvadoran Popular Party some years ago. [passage omitted on history of violence in El Salvador]

Dr Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth has been a national political leader and at the same time and for many years headed various national enterprises. Dr Rodriguez Porth was director for many years of the Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He was also one of the staunchest political supporters of free enterprise in our country.

Special Meeting Called

PA0906185389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1729 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE)— The ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) in El Salvador today condemned the murder of Presidency Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth and two of his bodyguards perpetrated by presumed guerrillas.

The minister and his two bodyguards died when Rodriguez Porth's residence in San Salvador was machinegunned.

ARENA deputies did not dismiss the possibility that the ruling party may withdraw President Alfredo Cristiani's dialogue offer to the guerrillas if it is confirmed that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) carried out the attack.

However, ARENA leaders who arrived at Rodriguez Porth's residence did dismiss the possibility that "other groups interested in the continuation of violence" could have perpetrated the attack. The deputies did not identify these groups.

Thus far, neither the guerrillas nor any other organization have claimed responsibility for the murder of the minister, who was one of the most promiment members of Cristiani's government, as well as of Salvadoran private enterprise.

The Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce also condemned the murder of Minister Rodriguez Porth, who was a former director of that business organization, and recalled his links with Salvadoran private enterprise. [passage omitted]

President Cristiani is currently holding a special government meeting to assess the situation following the minister's death. An official communique is expected in the next few hours. [passage omitted]

Cristiani Blames FMLN

PA1006035889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0312 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani holds the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] responsible for the assassination of Dr Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth and called the attack an attempt to boycott the dialogue process. The president has ordered 3 days of national mourning in honor of the slain minister.

[Cristiani] "We are going to respond legally. We will begin immediately to undertake the necessary exhaustive investigations to find and to punish those responsible for a crime against the life of an exemplary citizen."

President Alfredo Cristiani blamed the FMLN for Minister Rodriguez Porth's death. He said this attack is part of a series of actions aimed at destabilizing the new government.

[Cristiani] "We are practically convinced that this has been an FMLN effort, an FMLN incident, to try and provoke a reaction from our government. We feel that the investigations will undoubtedly show us who is to blame for this regretable incident; however, I repeat, we are almost sure that this was done by the FMLN.

"We had hoped the FMLN would no longer carry out this type of barbaric action; however, it is the duty of the Armed Forces and the security corps to offer protection. This is why they have been deployed: to offer greater safety and protection to the people."

During this evening's Radio Venceremos newscast, however, the rebels neither claimed nor denied responsibility for the attack. Nevertheless, President Cristiani said the assassination may have been carried out by the FMLN in an attempt to hinder the dialogue process.

[Cristiani] "We had learned, even before the inauguration, that the FMLN would try to hinder the transition from one government to another and later create anarchic situations for the new government. This could be part of that plan.

"I also feel that this could be the FMLN's way to force us to sit down and talk. It would be regrettable that after receiving a formal offer to sit down to talk—first about the mechanisms to be used as guidelines during the talks and later to broach the main issues in an attempt to reach a lasting peace in our country—the FMLN should still think that such actions are necessary. I think they are only trying to disrupt the new government's work."

During this evening's news conference, President Cristiani said that during today's cabinet meeting it was decided to ask the Legislative Assembly to decree 3 days of mourning for Dr Rodriguez Porth.

President Condemns Assassination

PA1006012689 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0004 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Statement read by President Alfredo Cristiani during a news conference held at the Presidential Palace on 9 June—recorded]

[Text] We face the nation and the world to express our sorrow and the sorrow that overcomes all conscientious sectors of our society as a result of this morning's

barbaric action in which Presidency Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth and two loyal members of his security staff lost their lives. This merciless and reprehensible action is one more in a series of sad losses that the Salvadoran people have experienced throughout these 10 years of conflict and unjust bloodshed. This unjust bloodshed is the work of those who, after unleashing and maintaining a situation for which there is no historical reason, have tried to impose totalitarianism and oppression in our homeland.

We took office only a week ago with the best of intentions. We extended our hand to all honest, worthy, and patriotic Salvadorans—whom we know are a large majority—so that together, surpassing the fulfillment of our ideological and political ideals, we could rescue our beloved homeland from destruction and chaos.

Now, at this time, with the assassination of one of the most illustrious men in our nation—who was an intelligent and prominent government figure—the shady forces that do not want peace, reconciliation, harmony, or progress for the homeland are putting our convictions and purposes to the test through their premeditated and treacherous action. We are going to respond to them legally. We will begin immediately to undertake the necessary exhaustive investigations to find and to punish those responsible for a crime against the life of an exemplary citizen and against our democratic process.

The country has experienced a great loss with Dr Rodriguez Porth's death. His untiring struggle for democracy and freedom was constant and fruitful and represents an important legacy for current and future generations. He was a man of firm convictions and patriotic ideals. He always used his ideas and his pen to confront his adversaries and denigrators. We wish to follow his great example.

Sorrow overwhelms us, indignation moves us, but we wish to tell the people that we will not lose the calm or firm spirit that the people asked of us when it chose us as their leaders. We will relentlessly hunt down the assassins; a society cannot survive if crimes go unpunished. However, we will not allow ourselves to be provoked or to sink the country further into this vortex of violence.

In honor of Dr Rodriguez Porth—a worthy, brilliant, and chivalrous man—we reaffirm each and every concept expressed in our 1 June [inaugural] speech, with which our dear friend, colleague, and mentor fully agreed. We ask the people to join with us in the search for peace and the struggle against murderous and destructive violence. Terrorist groups will never prevail in our beloved and suffering El Salvador. Our duty is to overcome our grief, legally to punish the assassins, and to call on the people, political parties, and everyone to redouble our efforts to achieve unity and to rescue our nation. This is a task for all of us. We ask for your trust, prudence, and optimism. The government knows how to consolidate democracy and maintain freedom within the law. We who believe in democracy must unite.

To our beloved and unforgettable Dr Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, who now rests after a long and fruitful life he made through his own sacrifices, we only say: We will continue to struggle day after day for that El Salvador of which you dreamed. We will never forget your untiring struggle for freedom and truth. Your clean [4-second break in reception] page of patriotic services has been added to our history book. All this represents your invaluable and honorable legacy to your wife, children, distinguished relatives, your many friends, and the noble Salvadoran people whom you loved so dearly.

A great fellow countryman has fallen in the struggle for peace and freedom; however, his assassins cannot kill democracy, a democracy that the people are willing to defend with their own lives. May God help us be firm in this endeavor. Thank you.

Justice Minister Reacts

PA0906214489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1500 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Interview with Justice Minister Dr Oscar Santamaria by unidentified reporter in San Salvador on 9 June—recorded]

[Text] [Santamaria] As a government official, I condemn the assassination of the Presidency Minister. I believe these are not the actions of rational people. This attack violates the human rights of all citizens. It seems that those who are calling for the enforcement of laws and respect for human rights are the first to violate the law.

We will never agree with violent methods, no matter who commits them, which is something we have always maintained. This is a government that will follow new ideas; this is a government of broad participation that respects all civil rights. Therefore, as justice minister I condemn this despicable and loathsome murder.

[Reporter] Will the Justice Ministry order an investigation of this case?

[Santamaria] This assassination will be investigated by all appropriate agencies. If our ministry has jurisdiction over aspects of this case, we will certainly investigate it.

[Reporter] Can you promote [words indistinct] to avoid this kind of attacks?

[Santamaria] There really are no measures that can be taken to prevent terrorism. This is a terrorist action, and we cannot... [changes thought] All we—those of us who are regular citizens—can do is defend ourselves from that threat.

[Reporter] What about the rest of the [words indistinct]?

[Santamaria] The cabinet's position remains unchanged. We deplore what has happened to Dr Rodriguez Porth. However, the government will continue fulfilling its constitutional mandate, which is the people's mandate.

ARENA Leader Reacts

PA0906220289 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Interview with Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, ARENA deputy, with unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ochoa] This incident must be condemned by all Salvadorans and all peoples in the world who love democracy, because they [not further identified] committed a savage action, an unspeakable terrorist act; they cowardly assassinated [Presidency Minister Antonio] Rodriguez Porth and two bodyguards. He was a man who truly represented us Salvadorans, a man who has been struggling for democracy for many years, who has been fighting small - time dictators, corrupt people, and people who do not believe in the democratic system. Today we awakened to this sad news, which should really move all of us who believe in the democratic process, because this is not the way to solve problems; ideological issues are not settled with bullets; ideas are fought for with ideas.

In this trying time, we must be very patient and prudent, but firm. I believe that the time has come to defend the democratic system. We see subversive elements calmly speaking out in the local media. We have respected and invited them to participate in the democratic process. And how do they reply to us? They reply with terrorism and assassinations. I think that they want to do the same thing that was done in Algeria: Kill officials with the belief that they will run away and leave the country in communist hands. They are wrong about that, because we will fight back.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] leaders?

[Ochoa] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and FDR leaders. They are moving about freely. We opened the doors for them; we want them to participate, but the truth is that they do not understand civilized means. Therefore, it should be clear that we will take action. We have proven... [Ochoa changes thought] For example, I have done so in [word indistinct] with the workers, and we have reached agreements that have benefited both sides. We believe that we have the good will to try to solve problems in a civilized way. How does the FMLN-FDR respond to this? They respond by murdering and using terrorism. I believe that we should act legally but firmly.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ochoa] I hope that it makes us more united and that the blood that has been shed will strengthen us. I believe that we should remain calm and not get frightened; we must be careful, but we have to take action. We have to take actions that will truly defend the system and to defend what belongs to us: El Salvador.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ochoa] I believe that all of these issues will be discussed at the highest level. The president has the last word and the final say on what will be done. We will support the president's decisions to bring order to the country and to control actions of this type.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ochoa] I cannot give you any advance information on this. He will probably take legal measures, which the government has the legal power to do. We cannot continue the demagoguery that has been carried on in past years. The new government took office only nine days ago, and the rebels' response has been war, murder, and terrorism. I believe that we must act calmly but firmly.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ochoa] Concerning a dialogue, I repeat that this is a matter of [words indistinct] and a decision that must be made by the president. We will support his decision. I cannot provide advance information on what he will do because I am not the person [words indistinct]. However, I have my views. The matter will be studied at the highest levels. I believe that the party, as such, must contribute to the decisionmaking process, and as citizens, we must contribute to and support the president's decisions.

PDC 'Condemns' Assassination

PA0906200989 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Interview with Dr Eduardo Colindres, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, by Nelson Lopez—recorded]

[Text] [Colindres] The PDC condemns the assassination of Presidency Minister Dr Antonio Rodriguez Porth. It believes violence will not solve the country's problems; it is not the way to settle ideological differences, and will not lead to peace and development.

We hope this condemnable act will not be followed by an escalation of violence and revenge that would only serve to further polarize Salvadoran society. The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] expresses its condolences to the Republic's government, that is, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, and Rodriguez' grieving family. We urge the Salvadoran people, based on mutual respect, to find

a political and peaceful solution to the crisis that is currently afflicting our society. This is the PDC's position on the condemnable assassination of Dr Antonio Rodriguez Porth.

[Lopez] Dr Colindres, do you not believe this could lead to an escalation of violence by the extreme right?

[Colindres] We hope reason will prevail in the country. We believe this or any other incident should not lead to an escalation of violence, because that would only result in more bloodletting among the Salvadoran people. I believe we must not fall for the trap of violence that would only destroy us.

[Lopez] It is presumed that this action involved leftist urban commandos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. Do you believe that political group is responsible?

[Colindres] Let us wait and see what will happen, because it could have been the FMLN or ultrarightist factions seeking further polarization and bloodletting. We do not want to pass judgment yet. Regardless of who did it, this is an assassination, which is not the proper way to solve problems among Salvadorans.

[Lopez] In the PDC's opinion, what should be the role of the Armed Forces in the wake of Dr Rodriguez Porth's assassination?

[Colindres] I believe the Armed Forces must continue their policy of professionalism and respect for human rights, because this implies respecting the law and strengthening the institution of the Armed Forces. They have the constitutional duty to guarantee the safety and calm of the entire population.

[Lopez] Would you like to add anything?

[Colindres] Only that we hope this kind of regrettable and condemnable incident will not be repeated. We also hope that violence and destruction among Salvadoran brothers will end once and for all.

Rivera y Damas Condemns Murder

PA1106015589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Jun (AFP)—San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas today condemned Friday's assassination of Presidency Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth in San Salvador. He stressed that because of the assassination, the chances for a dialogue between the government and the guerrillas in the short-term are now minimal.

"We condemn this type of action, because we know that violence does not solve problems," Msgr Rivera y Damas said. He asked that there be no reprisals because "reprisals may turn things loose, and this would not be advisable for El Salvador," which is struggling to end the 10-year war that is wracking the country.

Rivera y Damas noted, however, that he trusts that President Alfredo Cristiani will not cancel the proposal for a dialogue he made to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) during his inaugural speech on 1 June, although the archbishop admitted that this is not the most auspicious time to open talks between the two sides.

Rivera y Damas added that Cristiani's readiness to hold a dialogue answers the expectations of the majority of the people, which has come out in favor of a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Other groups, such as the leftist Democratic Convergence, which is a coalition of three left-wing parties led by Guillermo Ungo, warned that the official's death in no way helps to create conditions to seek peace through talks.

One day following the murder, no organization has yet claimed responsibility for it.

The FMLN—which has been accused by the government of killing the Presidency minister—has said nothing about the assassination, not even in the most recent broadcasts by the clandestine Radio Venceremos.

Msgr Rosa Chavez Comments

PA1106192489 San Salvador Television Nacional in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Homily by Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, at the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today, we are sad and pessimistic over the assassination of a well-known Salvadoran, [Presidency Minister] Dr Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, whose death occurs in a country that has no peace and many serious problems.

One week ago, El Salvador was filled with hope as the media supported the proposal by the archdiocese and the national artists to do something great in memory of Pancho Lara [deceased Salvadoran singer]. Now, just a few days later, we feel despair when we see that barbaric actions seem to prevail among us, drowning all possibilities that the parties in conflict will listen to the cry of the people and achieve peace.

Thus, it is evident that the men of war and the men of peace live under the same skies, as do the fanatics of violence and the artisans of peace. On condemning the murder of the Presidency minister and his two employees in what was certainly a terrorist action, we publicly send our condolences to their respective families and the government.

We also want to voice our support for the calm and conciliatory attitude of President Cristiani, in spite of the righteous wrath he may have felt over the assassination of one of his closest colleagues. It is important for the nation that we continue on this concilatory path, because the long years of this useless war have shown us that violent paths are futile.

May God continue to enlighten the president and give him the wisdom and prudence he needs in these difficult moments of El Salvador, just a week after his inauguration. [passage omitted]

Zamora, Chavez Mena Cited

PA1006201289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] Democratic Convergence [CD] leader Ruben Zamora and Dr Fidel Chavez Mena, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], denounced the violent killing of Dr Rodriguez Porth and asked President Cristiani's government to initiate a thorough investigation to find those responsible.

[Begin Zamora recording] We raise our voices to condemn this assassination. [end recording]

The CD leader stated that the civilian officials should not be the target of any attack, much less when [words indistinct]:

[Begin Zamora recording] We do not believe that any civilian government official should be the target of any sort of attack, just as any civilian should not be the target of an attack because of his political ideas. [end recording]

Zamora said that unfounded accusations should be avoided since they make it more difficult to overcome the current state of war prevailing in the country:

[Begin Zamora recording] The type of statement made by the president of the Legislative Assembly and by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa must be interpreted as emotional statements in view of the shock caused by this terrible news. We do not believe that from a political viewpoint their remarks are wise or well thought out, and they do not help to overcome the situation. If one levels accusations here and there, it only increases the climate of uncertainty and violence in our country. We hope, especially now that the members of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] are part of the government, that they will maintain a more serious, prudent, and patriotic attitude in the face of this type of incident. [end recording]

Fidel Chavez Mena, secretary general of the PDC, demanded a prudent response from Cristiani's government to prevent worsening the climate of violence that exists in the country. Chavez Mena said that those who committed the crime want to prompt a violent reaction on the part of the government, which could thwart any possibility for a dialogue with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

[Begin Chavez Mena recording] Certainly we fear this incident will elicit a reaction that will itself generate a response that will ensure the reoccurence of these deplorable incidents, which are totally rejected by the Salvadoran people.

We hope the government, as part of the policy outlined by President Cristiani during his inaugural speech, will be prudent, will conduct the appropriate legal investigations, and will adopt the security measures the circumstances obviously demand. [end recording]

For both political leaders, the facts and the circumstances are not clear enough to assign blame for the incident at this time. However, Chavez Mena added, it is clear that the assassination of the Presidency minister does not help to create the climate that is necessary to work and to attain a negotiated solution to the military conflict.

Ungo Condemns Assassination

PA1106035589 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Interview with Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front and secretary general of the National Revolutionary Movement, with unidentified reporter in San Salvador on 10 June—recorded]

[Text] [Ungo] I condemn yesterday's murder of Presidency Minister Rodriguez Porth and his two companions, but I must also call for prudence and calm. I am pleased with President Cristiani's statements to this effect, but I am worried that there may be impulsive, hasty, and irrational actions by certain top ARENA leaders. I understand the ARENA leaders' feelings, but I do not condone them. This is a truly tragic and shocking moment for the entire nation and particularly for ARENA, for both personal and partisan reasons.

Therefore, [word indistinct] and I believe that what is needed now is reflection, prudence, and restraint. Certain groups—which are not parties per se—have made statements that could pave the way for certain political sectors who would like to create a climate of increased violence and intolerance by closing political openings and creating conditions that would lead to an escalation of the war and violence, instead of promoting conditions conducive to peace and coexistence.

Such a position does nothing to aid President Cristiani's policy laid out in his 1 June inaugural speech. I therefore believe [words indistinct] will be very temporary, circumstantial, and tempermental.

ARENA has come close to accusing the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], and President Cristiani himself left very little room for doubt

when he said that it is very likely that the FMLN perpetrated the action. The president's statements contradict those of Mrs. Rodriguez Porth, who declined to level accusations. She said that it could have been perpetrated by extreme right- or left-wing groups.

The FMLN's failure so far to issue a statement claiming responsibility for or denying having committed the crime worries me. To me it is negative, inconvenient, and, to some extent, a suspicious fact. I believe that whoever perpetrated this crime—whether it was the FMLN, an ultra right-wing group, or any group with shady interests—has committed a crime and a stupid political action.

[Reporter] If violence increases, will the left-wing parties spearhead attacks?

[Ungo] Difficult and tragic situations can have negative or positive consequences. This incident may generate further violence, but it might also serve to build an awareness of the need for a peace agreement.

Guatemala

Cerezo Sends Letter to Ortega on Peace Process

PA1006021289 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 8 Jun 89 p 73

[Report on letter from President Vinicio Cerezo to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega; date and place not given]

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo last night revealed that he sent a letter to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega telling him that he is not complying with the peace agreements signed in El Salvador.

President Cerezo's letter proposes that an assessment be made at the next presidential summit, adding: "I want to tell you that we still have the same spirit that breathed life into this peace process. This peace process has given us the opportunity to work, with a great sense of responsibility, for the future of millions of compatriots. In addition, we have not forgotten the importance of the commitments made and, although some have found obstacles in the way of fulfilling these commitments, we are making efforts to find solutions.

"I also want to note that I share your concern over the delay in certain actions that were to accelerate this process. Consequently, I believe that other commitments that have not been fulfilled by other governments must be discussed at the next presidential summit. In addition, we must make a more thorough review of the voluntary demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of Nicaraguan Resistance members and their relatives in Nicaragua and third countries. We must also study the ongoing conflicts between your government and Honduras in order to continue with other ancillary actions that would guarantee general progress in fulfilling the agreements we signed."

Cerezo Dismisses Alleged Murder Plot as 'Rumor'

PA1006025689 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 9 Jun 89 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Jun 1989—President Cerezo acknowledged yesterday that a "very strong rumor" has been spread about a so-called "Manila Plan" to murder him. According to the rumor, his own wife, Mrs Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, is said to be involved in the plot.

Cerezo said that according to the rumor, there would be an assassination attempt against the president because other efforts to disrupt the government have failed. He added that it is nothing more than a rumor.

Of course, Cerezo said, the presidential guard and the government's security agencies have taken the necessary precautions to prevent such an incident.

Cerezo said that because the issue has been made public, the attorney general must investigate those who claim knowledge of the plan.

The president added that those individuals will be summoned to testify, and he hopes they will not conceal information that could affect the nation's interests.

Meanwhile, Government Minister Roberto Valle Valdizan said he became aware of the rumored plan through newspaper articles, and he described it as "totally absurd." Valle added that Guatemalans who are aware of the country's reality know that the rumors are unfounded.

As for the first lady's involvement in the "Manila Plan," Valle said that rumor is unfounded and unwarranted. He added that the report is not based on facts but on speculation.

Tighter Security Measures Adopted

PA0806221789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1958 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Jun (DPA)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today confirmed that additional security measures have been taken to protect him in light of recent rumors about a possible attack. Cerezo, in statements to the press at the Presidential Palace, said that rumors have been heard and that his General Staff decided to take additional security measures to protect his life.

Since the foiled coup d'etat on 9 May, rumors of an attack against the president have been circulating. A morning newspaper columnist wrote of an "alleged Manila plan" [not further identified] against Cerezo. During yesterday's news conference, President Cerezo confirmed that the rumors exist and that his security has been reinforced.

Salvadoran Minister's Assassination Condenmed

PA0906195889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1858 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government today condemned the murder of Salvadoran Presidency Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth in an attack perpetrated by presumed urban guerrillas.

Presidential adviser Julio Santos told ACAN-EFE that his government "regrets" Rodriguez' murder, which was carried out early this morning in San Salvador. Two of the minister's bodyguards were also killed in the attack.

Santos said the Guatemalan Government hopes the Central American agreements known as "Esquipulas II" will help bring peace and democracy not only to El Salvador, but to the entire area in the near future.

Santos added that although it is still not clear who killed Minister Rodriguez, it is hoped Salvadoran society will achieve peace and that the conflict in that country will not escalate.

More Than Dozen Dead in Wave of Violence

PA0906223989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2129 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The wave of violence affecting Guatemala has resulted in more than a dozen deaths throughout the country in the past few hours. Police reports state that three members of a peasant family—among them an 11-year-old girl—were shot to death by unidentified men, who raided their home in Cuyotenanga jurisdiction, in southern Guatemala.

According to the report, approximately 20 men, dressed in uniforms like the ones worn by the Army, carefully searched the house before killing the three peasants. Likewise, prison authorities report that three men who were serving time at the Canada Penal Farm, located in the southern Escuintla Department, were "massacred" by other prisoners. The report adds that the three prisoners, one of whom was to be released in 23 days, were stabbed to death and practically decapitated.

Meanwhile, in the past few hours, two men were shot to death and the bodies of two women were found in different areas of Guatemala. They are all victims of violence. Interior Minister Roberto Valle has reiterated that "there are no killings" going on in Guatemala, and that these actions have all been carried out by common criminals.

Honduras

Assassination of Salvadoran Minister Denounced

PA0906200589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1844 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Government today denounced the assassination of Salvadoran Presidency Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth in an attack in which his bodyguard and driver were also killed.

Honduran Foreign Ministry spokesman Eugenio Castro told ACAN-EFE that what has happened in San Salvador "is inhumane" and added that "this is not the way to behave, especially in a country where elections were held and the people select their leaders."

The democratic alternative is the only alternative the Central American peoples have, and violence is the biggest obstacle to the democratization process in the countries in the region," Castro added.

Rodriguez Porth, 65, was killed by alleged urban guerrillas who machinegunned his residence, according to Salvadoran police reports.

He was sworn in as the Presidency minister on 1 June, 2 hours after Alfredo Cristiani's presidential inauguration.

Azcona, Quayle To Discuss Economy, Summit

PA1106043089 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Report on "exclusive" interview with President Jose Azcona by Scarlett Hyatt in Tegucigalpa, date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Hyatt] U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle will arrive on 12 June to meet with Honduran President Azcona.

[Azcona] "We have prepared an agenda for Vice President Quayle's visit. We hope to touch on topics of unquestionable interest for our countries. The topics include economic matters and Central America's political situation. We will hold talks with the vice president. However, we do not have a specific agenda.

[Hyatt] "Will Vice President Quayle establish guidelines or make proposals for the Central American peace process?

[Azcona] "Not really. He will certainly be interested in the peace process and in learning our views on the next Central American presidential summit. These are obligatory topics for discussion during Vice President Quayle's visit."

[Hyatt] U.S. Embassy official (John Bartley) said yesterday that the vice president will not visit Nicaragua because it is not a democratic country. Observers feel that if the U.S. Government is sincerely interested in the Central American peace process, as it has stated through its representatives, Quayle should make an exception and meet with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. On this matter, President Azcona explained that it must be understood that relations between the United States and Nicaragua are tense as a result of the mutual expulsion of ambassadors. He added that although communications are being restored, the climate is not right for a Quayle visit. The president also commented on remarks by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto on a possible cancellation of the presidential summit scheduled for 7 July in Honduras.

[Azcona] "I am greatly surprised by the Costa Rican foreign minister's remarks. During the inauguration of Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, three Central American presidents had lunch together; I am referring to Oscar Arias, Vinicio Cerezo, and myself. President Cristiani, who was about to be sworn in, was also there. Nobody objected to the date given when the topic was brought up. (?It was set) for July. The only thing I said was that I felt that the summit could be held in [word indistinct] or Tela. [Words indistinct] our island. That was the only thing left unresolved. Of course this is [words indistinct]. Therefore, I am surprised that there is now talk of postponing the date."

[Hyatt] Azcona will speak with his colleagues to finalize the plans for the presidential summit. With Alfredo Cristiani in power, observers believe that consolidating peace in the region is becoming more difficult, as Cristiani is regarded as an ultrarightist who could be at odds with Daniel Ortega at any time; this would jeopardize their relations. Azcona said that Cristiani expressed interest in reaching peace, and he added that Cristiani will strive for that goal.

[Hyatt] "[Words indistinct] the Nicaraguan revolution. Will the Honduran Government be ready to [words indistinct] the Salvadoran guerrillas driven out of El Salvador?

[Azcona] "There are many Salvadoran refugees here. There are guerrillas among those refugees. We have not turned them over to the Salvadoran Armed Forces, nor have we harassed them. We in Honduras have suffered the impact of the problems in our neighboring countries. The specter of a country run by an oligarchy or narrow-minded capitalists [words indistinct]. Napoleon Duarte [words indistinct] the huge social conflict that developed after so many years. Honduras is a country that is more or less [word indistinct]. We have had a wealthy sector, but it was not an oligarchy like the one in El Salvador. We have unions and social organizations. We have felt the impact of the situation in El Salvador."

[Hyatt] We have felt the effects of changes in Nicaragua, he added. Azcona also commented on an issue that has been the focus of national and international attention: The lawsuit filed by Nicaragua against Honduras at the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

[Azcona] "This is very simple [words indistinct]. In our efforts at Esquipulas II, San Jose, and El Salvador, we have been completely amenable to the elimination of the contras. We in no way support a military solution in Nicaragua; we support a political solution [words indistinct]. If all presidents sign an agreement and if Honduras agrees to the presence of all observers wishing to come, we are willing to support the demobilization plan approved by the other presidents [words indistinct]. This makes no sense because Honduras is sort of being forced at gunpoint to do something that it is willing to do or to help carry out. That is the problem.

"We could take simultaneous actions. They could withdraw the lawsuit at The Hague, we could sign a document approving the demobilization plan, and then we could move forward from there. We see no problem with this. I will tell you something with great joy: Conditions do not exist in Nicaragua for a totalitarian regime to definitively take root. In view of what is happening in the PRC, USSR, Poland, Hungary, and so forth, that situation is a utopia. The threat to Honduras by a totalitarian regime—if it ever existed at all—is virtually disappearing. If the Nicaraguan people, the Sandinists, and Sandinist groups realize this, I do not see why there should be problems between Nicaragua and Honduras."

[Hyatt] The issue of privatization was discussed among the private sector yesterday and today during a seminar. At the inaugural speech of that event, the president said that he supports privatization except for public services such as ENEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power] and [word indistinct].

Foreign Minister Deplores Panama Situation

PA0806231889 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said during the OAS meeting held in Washington on Tuesday that "the sad electoral developments in Panama and the failure of the efforts of the mission appointed by the consultative meeting have resulted in a serious political situation that has become a source of deep concern to the OAS member countries."

In a communique issued by the Honduran Foreign Ministry, he added that the grave violation of inter-American principles in Panama hampers the consolidation of our democratic processes.

He also added that self-determination and nonintervention in no way imply license to oppress the people, the true sovereigns, and do not grant the authority to ignore the will expressed by the people at the polls.

"We have met here to express our displeasure, to protest strongly and collectively against the violations of the Panamanian people's right to self-determination," Lopez Contreras said.

He stressed "that tolerance toward arbitrariness by public power in any corner of the Americas may incite tolerance on our own soil. It would be a dangerous signal if we were to culminate this era of democratic restoration in Latin America by remaining silent over the usurpation of a people's sovereignty and timidly acquiescing when a dictatorship raises its voice."

He said that Panama's political case is compounded by its particular position as a strategic belt in the Americas that links the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. "Let there be no

doubt of Panama's right over the canal; let no one have doubts about his obligations under the canal treaties. Yesterday and today our position is one of solidarity with Panama's sovereign rights."

He then said: "However, this deeply rooted pan-American feeling must not inhibit us from taking action, and should strict compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties be in danger some day, Panama will always have us at her side, the way we are today, demanding respect for its people's sovereignty.

Lopez Contreras "strongly rejected" Sandinist Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco's references to Honduras in his speech. He said he did not know "with what moral authority" Tinoco was trying to indict the OAS and the governments represented in it.

Asylum Reportedly Granted to Nicaraguan Pilot
PA0806212589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Honduran Government has granted political asylum to Edwin Rafael Estrada, a Nicaraguan pilot who landed a Soviet-made Mi-25 helicopter in Tegucigalpa on 7 December. Since his arrival, the defector has remained on a military base and has devoted his time to teaching Honduran pilots how to fly the aircraft he brought from Nicaragua.

The Honduran Government granted him asylum because Estrada is thought to have been persecuted by Nicaraguan authorities. He was warned, however, that he will have to obey Honduran law, which forbids his participation in political activities.

Nicaragua

Ortega Calls for End to U.S. Embargo, Contra Aid
PA1006134189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1227 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega again demanded the suspension of the trade embargo imposed by the United States against Nicaragua since 1985. If the United States really wants to help achieve peace, it must suspend the embargo, stop helping the counterrevolutonaries, and compensate the Nicaraguan people for the damage they have caused. Ortega made these remarks in closing the 4th biennial Destiny and Hope for the Earth Congress yesterday.

He said that while the Supreme Electoral Council was being established in Managua, a group of counterrvolutionaries was attacking a hydroelectric plant in Jinotega.

During his speech, President Ortega proposed that the OAS monitor election processes in other countries as it is monitoring those in Nicaragua. The OAS should send observers to each country holding elections to confirm the credibility of those elections, Ortega added.

In closing the congress, President Ortega said that violence in various countries throughout the world is rooted in an unjust international order.

After condemning the violence and repression that exist in many countries, Ortega described as unjust the U.S. policy of criticizing governments that are not loyal to it. This policy endorses corruption, he said. He added that violence must be condemned regardless of political persuasion. Ortega pointed out that the United States criticized the elections in Panama but supported the elections in El Salvador, where less than 50 percent of the population voted.

Ortega Berates Salvadoran, Paraguayan Governments
PA1006035289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0254 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today lashed out at the Salvadoran and Paraguayan Governments at the closing of the Fourth Biennial "Destiny and Hope for the Earth" Congress, which was held in Managua and which was attended by over 1,000 participants from 70 countries.

Ortega said that it was "grotesque" to talk about democratic elections in El Salvador when "only a minority voted to elect a government that has been characterized by criminal acts."

"The ruling Salvadoran party has murdered peasants and clergymen, and no one can guarantee that the elections were free, because they were held under conditions of terror," Ortega emphasized.

Regarding Paraguay, he said that the succession of power had been a matter confined to "a family of drug traffickers," and that some Central American presidents had sat down with a drug-trafficking chieftain.

Ortega added that Nicaragua cannot applaud the violence that is unfolding in China, but declined to make further comments.

Regarding recent Latin American social upheavals, he pointed out that it is unnecessary to organize revolutionary groups to provoke such upheavals. "These violent actions are brought on by an unjust economic system and are apparently solved by firing on the population," he said ironically. Not mentioning any country by name, Ortega said that "in some countries the people are killed and nobody condemns such repressive actions. This indicates that the world can behave hypocritically."

Moreover, he called for the elimination of "all sorts" of weapons throughout the world. "Nicaragua advocates the elimination of all weapons—whether nuclear, conventional, or any other type—because they are responsible for the continuous impoverishment of Third World countries," the Nicaraguan head of state said.

The fourth biennial congress, which opened Monday, was adjourned today with a declaration of principles supporting the world peoples' right to chart their own destiny without any foreign meddling.

RN Leader Returns for 'Coming Elections'

PA1106211789 Paris AFP in Spanish
2019 GMT 11 Jun 80

[Text] Managua, 11 Jun (AFP)—After 7 years in exile, Alfredo Cesar, former member of the board of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN-contras), today returned to Managua after foreswearing the armed struggle. He told AFP he intended "to participate in the coming elections."

After signing a document in which he pledged "to forsake any armed action or unlawful activities" in Nicaragua, the former contra leader added that the Esquipulas II peace agreements summon subversive groups to return to the political fray.

Visibly moved, Cesar deplaned at the terminal of Managua's international airport from a plane specially chartered by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

There he was approached by state security agents, who led him to a small office where he swore before a notary that he does not belong to any armed group.

Meanwhile his wife, Sylvia Lacayo—sister of Lieutenant Colonel Oswaldo Lacayo, chief of the general staff of the Sandinist People's Army—waited for him in the airport's waiting room. She was accompanied by a small group of followers of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), which Cesar will join.

In addition to Cesar, who served from 1979 until 1982—the year he left the country—as president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua, 10 other leaders of the defunct Southern Opposition Bloc, which for a time formed part of the National Resistance, have also returned to Nicaragua.

The former rebel leader said today that in late June he will go to Stockholm, Sweden, to participate as a PSD militant in a meeting of the Socialist International. The ruling FSLN [Frente Sandisista de Liberacion Nacional] has observer status at the Socialist International.

As Cesar was about to sign the document that would open the doors of Nicaragua to him, he told AFP: "My presence here says more than anything I could say."

Cesar was asked about the campaign that will culminate with the February 1990 elelctions. He stated that his party will support a single opposition candidate. He noted: "If the elections are clean, we will accept whoever wins, even if it is the FSLN."

From the airport, Cesar and his entourage went to the populous Ciudad Jardin neighborhood, where the PSD had convened supporters to officially welcome the former member of the contra directorate.

Last year, Cesar participated there in the high-level Sapoa negotiations between the rebels and the government. Those negotiations began on 21 March 1988, but broke up on 9 June of the same year.

Welcoming Crowd Gathers

PA1106232489 Paris AFP in Spanish
2127 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 11 Jun (AFP)—Approximately 2,000 Nicaraguans gathered today in a heavily populated neighborhood of Managua to welcome former "contra" leader Alfredo Cesar who returned to the country this morning to join "in the civic struggle" against the Sandinist government.

Since early this morning, followers of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) gathered at a park in Ciudad Jardin to welcome Cesar before marching to party headquarters in Managua.

Cesar, visibly moved, stood on an improvised platform and gave his first speech amid strong hurrahs for the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN - Contras) and slogans against the Sandinist regime.

"I did not come here to visit; I came here to stay," Cesar told his followers after announcing that he is joining the PSD and that he would support "the opposition's sole candidate" in the upcoming elections.

Recalling the Sandinist struggle waged 10 years ago, which ended the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship, Cesar predicted that 1989 would be a decisive year "to save the country from the deep crisis it is experiencing as a result of the Sandinist regime's inability to govern."

The opposition leader said that the ruling FSLN was "very effective in opposing Somoza," and added that "it must now return to the opposition because the FSLN [leaders] have been poor rulers."

Cesar expressed confidence that the opposition, which is grouped under the National Opposition Union, "will be the winner" of the February 1990 elections. He admitted, though, that "the struggle demands full dedication to unity."

The anti-Sandinist leader left Nicaragua 7 years ago after resigning as president of the Nicaraguan Central Bank and later formed the Southern Opposition Bloc in Costa Rica.

Cesar is still formally a member of the RN board, but on arrival in Managua today he signed a document that contained a pledge to the Nicaraguan authorities renouncing armed struggle and any kind of illegal activity that violates the country's laws.

Opposition Form 'National Opposition Unity'

PA1006225389 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jun 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Nicaraguan political opposition, grouped under the name of "the 14 political opposition parties," yesterday decided to take yet another step in its reorganization process. From now on, the opposition will be known as the National Opposition Unity [Union Nacional Oppositora], (UNO).

Recalling the UNO that fought against Somoza, Independent Liberal Party leader Jaime Bonilla said that "we adopted this new name because we realized that today, as during the years prior to 1979, it is necessary to continue to fight Sandinism, which is nothing more than the continuation of Somozism."

Bonilla said that this historic step proves to the Nicaraguan people that opposition unity exists and grows stronger each day, despite the government's constant maneuvers to destroy this unity.

The Nicaraguan people believe that opposition unity is necessary to more effectively confront Sandinism. Opposition party representatives from various departments reported having begun joint activities even before they were instructed to do so by their parties' national authorities.

Yesterday in Leon, members of all political parties that make up UNO informed their national leaders that they might stage a protest at the university campus there during the 1st week of July, probably on 2 July.

UNO leaders interviewed this morning said that there is no such thing as a breakdown within the opposition alliance, adding that the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), headed by Adolfo Roberto Callejas, joined UNO yesterday.

UNO's official slogan is: "For a government of national salvation." During the next 13 days, UNO will prepare its government platform for next year's elections, provided that it is granted the necessary guarantees to participate in the election process.

Once the platform is ready, UNO will begin to prepare, organize, and mobilize the people to confront the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Contras Reportedly Bomb Hydroelectrical Plant

PA0906192389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1752 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Jun (AFP)—The state-run radio station La Voz de Nicaragua reported today that "contras" last night bombed the large Centroamerica Hydroelectrical Plant locted in the northern Jinotega region.

The damage as a result of the attack is being assessed by technicians from the Nicaraguan Institute of ECIA Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and the Sandinist Government in March 1988. [sentence as received]

Defense Ministry spokesmen have said that the damage caused by this action will be announced in the next few hours.

Further on Attack

PA0906205589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1946 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Report by correspondent Francisco de Jesus Rodriguez from Jinotega Department]

[Excerpt] The Nicaraguan forces protecting the Centro-America Hydroeletric Plant—the most important hydroelectric plant in Nicaragua—have repelled an attempt by the counterrevolution to destroy the hydroelectric plant on the night of 8 June. The plant installations, located 6 km from Jinotega, sustained minor damage; energy was cut off in Jinotega City for security reasons and was restored in Jinotega this morning.

The attack on the Centro-America Hydroelectric Plant was concurrent with another attack against the lock that supplies water to the dam. This attack was also repelled by the militias protecting the lock. During the attack, at least two contras were seriously wounded; one of the soldiers protecting the dam was also wounded.

I just returned from Las Brumas City, Jinotega Department. We succeeded in reaching the hydroelectric plant area thanks to the efforts made by the 6th Region Defense Ministry's public relations chief. We went to El Cacao and verified that three M-79 rockets hit the roof and windows of the hydroelectric plant control room. The rockets were launched from [word indistinct] Hill by counterrevolutionaries, who had succeeded in reaching that area. A FAL [Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion] rifle shot hit one of the control panels. A pole holding telephone lines connecting that dam area with San Rafael del Norte, [word indistinct], La Concordia, and the [word indistinct] Military Base is being repaired right now.

(Jose Torres Rizo), a long-time Centro-America Hydroelectric Plant worker and an area resident, said that the counterrevolutionary movement has always wanted to destroy this hydroelectric plant. The worker added that a special commando unit familiar with the area carried out

the attack. Mortar and rifle fire destroyed the checkpoint protecting the entrance to the lock's gate connecting the tunnel with the Centro-America Hydroelectric Plant.

Felipe de Jesus Garcia, a member of the Francisco Rey Espinosa Cooperative and a hard-fighting reservist, said that the militias protecting the dam resisted to the end until they defeated the mercenaries. [passage omitted]

Contra Leader Denial

PA0906231089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2159 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 9 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan contra spokesman Bosco Matamoros today denied in Washington that the contras are responsible for an attack against a hydroelectric plant in northern Nicaragua. The Voice of Nicaragua, the Sandinist government's official radio station, today attributed to the contras Thursday's "terrorist attack" against the Centro-America hydroelectric plant located 30 km west of Jinotega in northern Nicaragua.

During a telephone conversation with ACAN-EFE, Matamoros gave assurances that the rebels "were not in any way involved" in that attack which, according to the government radio station, left several injured and blacked out Jinotega. The contra leader said that the report broadcast on the government station is an effort to "divert attention" away from the country's domestic problems and military "desertions." Matamoros added that his organization "does not carry out that type of operation."

Some international human rights organizations have accused the contras of perpetrating "terrorist acts" in Nicaragua, of kidnapping thousands of civilians, and of murdering peasants, women, and children over the past 7 years in northern Nicaragua. According to Sandinist leaders, the contras are militarily defeated and "survive" by launching "isolated and desperate attacks" against civilian targets in northern Nicaragua.

Obando on Power Plant Attack, Quayle Visit

PA1106200089 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1850 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Report by Roberto Gonzalez]

[Text] After today's noon mass at La Sierrita in Managua, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said he doubts the counterrevolutionaries were the ones who attacked the Centro-America plant, which produces 35 percent of our country's electricity. The contras were repelled by six or eight members of the reserves and the People's Militias guarding the plant. During a brief news conference following the mass, Cardinal Obando y Bravo said the counterrevolutionaries had sent a fax message saying they were not the ones who staged the attack.

Now, we wonder: Does Cardinal Obando y Bravo think the attack was staged by some Honduran Army commando group? Does Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo think the attack might have been staged by a U.S. commando group that later returned to Honduran territory? Does Cardinal Obando y Bravo think it was the Sandinist People's Army who staged the attack? These are questions we must ask him, because the cardinal doubts the contras were the ones who attacked the Centro - America plan.

However, he said he disapproved of whomever attacked the plant, because this is a strategic target of the country and the action would have lead to more disasters in Nicaragua. The cardinal also referred to the arrival of counterrevolutionary directorate member Alfredo Cesar and company and said he was pleased they were joining the civic struggle, because as this is the most effective struggle in Nicaragua.

When asked about the U.S. Vice President's forthcoming visit to Central America and the fact he will not visit Nicaragua, the cardinal briefly said he had no knowledge and that this was the first news he had about this visit. It would be nice if the Vice President visited Nicaragua, he added.

On the other hand, we must reaffirm that according to all reports, it was a group of Somozist mercenaries—a group of counterrevolutionaries mercenaries—who attacked the Centro-America plant with the aim to destroy that extremely important economic target. However, the cardinal is not clear about that.

Defense Ministry Reports Honduran Army Attack

PA1106231289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2221 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Managua, 11 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today that Honduran Army troops attacked a group of agricultural workers in a Nicaraguan border region, resulting in no casualties.

The attack took place this past Friday in the area of Teotecacinte, along the border with Honduras. Honduran soldiers attacked the Nicaraguan peasants with M-19 rifles and M-79 USA grenade launchers.

The Defense Ministry reported that so far this year, Honduran troops have carried out 54 attacks against Nicaraguan civilians and military positions.

Panama

Noriega Describes U.S. Aggression in Interview

PA0906193489 Mexico City EL NACIONAL (Economic Section) in Spanish 6 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] Panama City, 5 Jun (NOTIMEX)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], said a solution to the Panamanian crisis must be reached among the political parties, not between the opposition and the FDP.

In an exclusive interview with NOTIMEX, Noriega also said the decision to annul Panama's presidential elections had been politically frustrating for the country.

Noriega, who was interviewed at a FDP "survival school" near the Costa Rican border, said: "The solution (to the political crisis) must be a political one and must be reached among Panamanians, without foreign meddling."

"Panama's problem," he stated, "is that a third country's strategic and military future is at stake."

Noriega accused the United States of having used Panama as an experimental site for destabilization in Latin America. He explained that Washington based its strategy on economic pressure, psychological warfare, and "diplomatic juggling." [malabarismo diplomatico]

Noriega stated that the FDP must respect the solution to the political crisis, which began in February 1988, as long as it is the result of a national agreement.

He stressed the crisis must be solved through an agreement among political parties and supported by the FDP as a third party.

Noriega observed that there will never be political harmony in Panama as long as there is foreign meddling. The United States, whose main military bases in Latin America are located in Panama, and the Panamanian opposition hold Noriega responsible for the country's political crisis.

Noriega said the accusations against him have been part of a psychological war. He added that he was "motivated" by this stage of Panamanian history he is experiencing. He said: "The accusations against me are so ridiculous they make me laugh."

Noriega said the United States has developed a "penetration strategy" in Latin America. Panama's 7 May elections, he added, served as the White House's experiment for "imposing fraud."

Noriega stressed that psychological warfare, economic aggression, and diplomatic pressure are the three sides of the triangle designed by the United States to harass Panama. Noriega said that same triangle could be used against any other area country.

Noriega described the U. S. and Panamanian opposition's accusations about alleged manipulation of election results by the Panamanian Government as imposed fraud.

Noriega said that the Panamanian Government decided to hold elections despite the U.S. economic aggression and its interference in the election process.

Noriega explained that the election annulment was a great frustration, because the 7 May elections were described internationally as a solution to the country's political crisis that started early last year with the dismissal of former Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

The lack of money resulting from the U.S. economic aggression and the discovery of a U.S. espionage network set up to report election fraud and call for rebellion were two of the reasons the government had to annul the elections, Noriega added.

The delivery of $10 million by the United States to the Panamanian opposition was another reason for the election annulment.

The Panamanian Electoral Tribunal decided to annul the elections after the violent 10 May events during which the three opposition candidates and some Defense Forces members were injured.

The elections were annulled because of the violence that resulted after the two entities vying for election—the progovernment National Liberation Coalition and the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance—claimed to have won the elections.

After the elections' annulment, the OAS issued a resolution condemning Noriega and appointed a mission that was supposed to seek the "transfer of power" in Panama. The opposition interpreted the OAS attitude as recognition of the election triumph it claimed to have won.

The OAS will meet in Washington tomorrow to listen to the report the foreign ministers of Guatemala, Ecuador, and Trinidad and Tobago will present. These foreign ministers visited Panama for 4 days in search of a solution to the country's political crisis.

Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, who took over the Presidency after Delvalle's dismissal, must leave the Presidency on 1 September by constitutional mandate.

Arias Calderon Detained on Return From OAS

PA0906124589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0508 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Ricardo Arias Calderon, leader of the Panamanian opposition, was "arbitrarily detained" by immigration authorities at the airport in Panama City tonight as he was returning from Washington in the company of other opposition leaders.

Arias Calderon said on leaving the airport that he had been "arbitrarily and illegally detained for over an hour," and verbally informed of an order issued for his arrest.

Moreover, Arias Calderon said: "We were interrogated without any explanation and asked silly questions about our passports and visas." In addition, many papers were

taken from the detainees, including a treatise written by deceased General Omar Torrijos called "The Guideline," which is considered his "political testament."

Arias arrived with Guillermo Cochez, an opposition legislator, Edgardo Molino Mola, dean of the University of Panama Law School, and Rogelio Cruz, a lawyer, who accompanied him to the OAS meeting in Washington.

The opposition leader, candidate for first vice president in the annulled 7 May elections, was met by the other members of his ticket, Guillermo Endara and Guillermo Ford, candidates for president and second vice president, respectively.

In response to questions about the OAS decision to extend the mandate of an OAS mediating commission, Arias Calderon said that the decision "does not respond to the Panamanian people's demands."

However, Arias added that the OAS decision "had one positive aspect," because its mission is to "pursue the same objective that it has sought since May, which is the transfer of power as soon as possible, democratically and in line with the Panamanian people's will."

Arias Calderon described the period given by the OAS to the commission (some 6 weeks) as "negative." The commission is to present a report on new efforts made between the government and the opposition to the OAS foreign ministers on 19 July in Washington.

With this extension, Arias Calderon said, the OAS "has imposed on the Panamanian people an unbearable delay, because we can no longer endure the dictatorship of (General Manuel Antonio Noriega), head of the Panama Defense Forces.

In a message to the Panamanian people, Arias emphasized that "it is necessary to continue the peaceful struggle and civil resistance, because we are in the final days of the Noriega dictatorship."

Endara Visits TEP; Comments on OAS Decision

PA1006132589 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2326 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Guillermo Endara Galimany, presidential candidate in the recent elections and a leader of the newly-formed Arnulfist Party, today visited the Electoral Tribunal [TEP] to object to the use of the name Arnulfist by the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA].

Guillermo Endara pointed out that the party led by Hildebrando Nicosia—also a presidential candidate—does not deserve to call itself Arnulfist:

[Begin recording] We came to the TEP today to object to a request made by the so-called PPA, which wants to add the term Arnulfist to its name. We already have been using that term and have restricted its use to loyal Arnulfists—those of us who have been loyal to Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid's doctrine of freedom and democratic goals and ideals. We object to the use of that name by this other party, because it is the name of our own party. [end recording]

Guillermo Endara also referred to the extension of the OAS mandate for finding a solution to the Panamanian situation:

[Begin recording] We sincerely believe the time allowed has been excessive. No matter what the OAS still has to accomplish, 6 weeks is excessively long. Anyway, that has already been decided, so all we can hope for is that the OAS does something effective in those 6 weeks. We hope the OAS does not live up to its reputation as a totally ineffective, worthless organization. We expect the OAS to vindicate itself and make the best use of those 6 weeks. [end recording]

OAS Delegate to Panama on Recent OAS Meeting

PA0906205689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] OAS Ambassador to Panama Elio Fabroni has made statements to this radio station and commented on the most recent OAS consultation meeting and the role played by the OAS mission members in the case of Panama.

[Begin Fabroni recording] The OAS foreign ministers met on 6 June as scheduled. They discussed the report presented by the mission that visited Panama. The OAS foreign ministers were pleased with the report and decided to extend the mandate of the OAS mission. The mission will have to present a final report on its efforts before 19 July when the OAS foreign ministers will meet again to discuss the Panamanian case.

I would say there are hopes to find an agreement based on the resolution issued after the most recent OAS consultation meeting. The OAS foreign ministers, who visited Panama 2 weeks ago, made many efforts. They themselves requested the extension of their mandate, which indicates they hope to obtain positive results from their efforts. [end recording]

Ritter Says Returning OAS Delegation 'Welcome'

PA1006151089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Statement by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter on OAS commission report on Panama; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] I have read the report issued by the commission, and I spoke with its three members and the OAS secretary general. They insisted that it was important that they return to Panama to try to reconcile the parties. If they believe that there is some hope that their actions can bring about an agreement, then they are welcome in

Panama. You must remember that their mission is to create opportunities for such an agreement, and if they believe there is a favorable climate to do so, then we Panamanians cannot oppose their visit.

Ritter Optimistic About Talks with Opposition

PA1206013089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 11 Jun (DPA)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter today said that if the delegation of OAS foreign ministers, a group that is promoting ways to reach an agreement in Panama, does not succeed in its efforts, "it will not mean that the organization failed, rather that the Panamanians were not able to sit down and talk to find a political solution to the problem experienced by the country." [passage omitted]

Minister Ritter said that he does not know what mechanisms will be used by the OAS foreign ministers during their second trip to Panama. However, he said that he is optimistic about the possibility of talks between the government and the opposition in search of a political solution. He added that he saw no reason why the talks could not be held under the sponsorship of the OAS.

Ritter said that the formulas for understanding must come from and be approved by the Panamanian people, "because if the OAS foreign ministers were to bring specific proposals, I am sure that one of the parties involved would feel that a solution was being imposed."

The foreign minister rejected statements by U.S. President George Bush who suggested that the OAS mission was traveling to Panama with a specific objective. Foreign Minister Ritter said: "Here in Panama we categorically reject this because it sounds like an order being given to the members of the OAS commission. This could be harmful to the moral integrity and honesty of the OAS."

Solis Palma Plans To Make Official Tour

PA0906153689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Jun 89 p 32

[From "The Griper" column]

[Text] A government source has reported that President Manuel Solis Palma will travel to Cuba on Wednesday [as published] accompanied by MIDA [Agricultural Development Ministry] Minister Luis Olmedo Castillo. The Presidency, however, does not want to confirm this.

Solis will also visit Nicaragua, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru to denounce U.S. aggression. In Cuba, he will be welcomed by President Fidel Castro and will return to Panama with Cuban technicians who will provide assistance to Panamanian cardboard and cheese factories.

Departs for Havana

PA0906135589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1324 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 9 June (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma traveled to Cuba today at the invitation of Cuban President Fidel Castro, with whom he will meet during his short visit to that Caribbean island.

Solis Palma departed for Havana at 0800 local (1300 GMT) on board a Panamanian Air Force plane. He was accompanied by three members of his cabinet and a group of approximately 30 people. [passage omitted on previously filed material]

Praises Visit to Cuba

PA0906175689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1655 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma said today that his official visit to Cuba, which begins today, has great significance in view of the present situation prevailing in this small nation. I believe that for us to visit any friendly country that at this time is truly extending support and backing for the process of national liberation in which we are engaged is proof of Panama's independence and self-determination, Solis Palma said.

In brief statements to the press at the local airport before he left for Havana, Solis Palma said that during his stay in Cuba, he will discuss technical matters and bilateral cooperation. He added that Cuba has advanced greatly in various areas, particularly in health, education, and small industry, areas in which it can extend assistance to Panama.

Solis Palma is traveling at the head of a high-level delegation at the invitation of Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Returns From Cuba, Appeals to Bush

PA1206020389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0101 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jun (DPA)—Chief of State Manuel Solis Palma said today, upon his return from a 3-day visit to Cuba, that he did not ask Fidel Castro for advice on overcoming a possible U.S. embargo on Panama and appealed to his U.S. counterpart George Bush "to be more sensible when making statements."

Answering questions upon his arrival at the Panamanian Air Force air terminal, Solis announced that his trip to Havana served to establish parameters for cooperation between Cuba and Panama, particularly in the areas of medicine and the supply of raw material.

He said that "as a person who has endured aggression represented by an embargo for 30 years, Fidel Castro knows the exact meaning of disinformation and meddling by a powerful country, as is now the case with Panama."

"Castro views the Panamanian situation from the standpoint that countries must be left free to pursue their own destinies without foreign interference," Solis Palma explained.

In addition, he said he is permanently prepared to engage in dialogue with the opposition to reach understanding in Panama, but said it should be held in a climate of respect for Panama's nationality and national liberation.

Solis ruled out the possibility of the United States arbitrating Panama's problem because, he said, that nation has shown that it does not meet the requirements to do so because it is biased toward the opposition.

Solis added that the agreement must be among Panamanians and Panamians do not find it is necessary, nor has anyone called for the United States to participate in a negotiation.

However, Solis Palma warned that the government is not willing to talk (with the opposition) if the U.S. sanctions are not lifted. If this does not happen, it will be very difficult to reach an understanding.

Solis Palma announced that he is scheduled to meet with the OAS delegation tomorrow and admitted that, in the beginning, he did not have an exact idea of what the mission's position was, but he maintained his belief that the OAS was being subjected to strong pressure, which he hoped the OAS could bear.

Solis Palma said that during the recent OAS foreign ministers' meeting in Washington, several countries changed their position regarding Panama. However, he added that he did not dare make a guess how many because he had his doubts as to whether this position could withstand the pressure being exerted on Latin America.

The minister in charge of the Presidency said that his remaining in office after 1 September, the day his term in office ends, will depend on the people and political groups. Solis Palma added that he would be willing to "continue serving the country in any capacity."

Asked whether he felt Venezuela had turned its back on Panama, Solis Palma said "unfortunately, I think Venezuela has turned its back on Liberator Simon Bolivar."

Ambassador Appeals to Vatican on Church's Role

PA0906190789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1651 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Rome—Bruno Garisto, Panamanian ambassador to Italy, has appealed to Vatican authorities to finally come to terms with the fact that the [Catholic] Church in Panama is being used by the United States to carry out its aggression against the Panamanian Government and people. He also asked these authorities to take whatever corrective measures are necessary in this regard.

In statements to the news agency ANSA, Garisto said that the Catholic Church has had continued success in bringing harmony to many countries' societies. Garristo charged that in Panama, however, Archbishop Marcos McGrath, the head of the Catholic Church, is doing exactly the opposite; he is promoting division and nurturing a crisis that is affecting all of Panama's social classes and economic interests.

Garisto accused McGrath, whom he described as being committed to the United States, of having mixed religion and politics for many years and of using religious demonstrations to implement a policy of destabilization and disinformation in serving U.S. interests.

Garisto said Washington aims to install parties and people in the Panamanian Government who would be willing to annul the treaties between the two countries, thus allowing the United States to keep military bases and soldiers in Panama beyond the year 2000. He added that the United States wants to eliminate General Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] because his nationalism has made him the guarantor of full compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which stipulate that the United States must withdraw all its soldiers from Panamanian soil by 31 December 1999. The United States thus launched a disinformation campaign and made unfounded charges against Noriega. According to Garisto, this slanderous campaign stems from the U.S. decision to disregard the treaties. It ranges, he explained, from staging a direct intervention to pressure authorities and the people to staging an arbitrary economic blockade to stifle Panama's economy.

Garisto said the United States has exerted great pressure on the Latin American countries to isolate Panama economically. It was only through this blackmail, he pointed out, that the United States managed to break Latin American unity.

Garisto stressed that the Panamanian people, and not the OAS, must find a solution to Panama's problems. He said he was certain the European countries will side with justice in overcoming the United States' offensive intervention.

Nuncio Replies to Criticism

PA1106003289 Paris AFP in Spanish 2309 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 Jun (AFP)—Msgr Sebastian Laboa, apostolic nuncio in Panama, today expressed surprise over the charges leveled against Archbishop Msgr Marcos McGrath in Rome yesterday by Bruno Garisto, Panamanian ambassador to Italy.

Garisto accused McGrath of promoting division among Panamanians, fostering the crisis afflicting Panama, and being an "instrument" of U.S. aggression, according to an international news dispatch published here by the pro-government press.

The nuncio told AFP today that as a result of those charges, he met for 1 hour last night with Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter at the Nunciature, where the minister expressed his "astonishment and disagreement" with Ambassador Garisto's statements. "They are slanderous charges," Laboa said, adding that the Vatican "has received no complaint through the proper channels." Moreover, Laboa said Ritter told him that "The Panamanian Government does not share that position. [quotation marks as received]

The progovernment press has launched several attacks against the Catholic hierarchy, primarily against McGrath, accusing him of hiding behind his cossack and of being "seditious, a traitor, and pro-Yankee."

McGrath and the Episcopal Conference have demanded recognition of the opposition's victory in the annulled 7 May elections and the release of some 150 opposition leaders who have been detained for over a month.

Ambassador Garisto appealed to the highest Catholic Church authorities to "correct the actions" of the Panamanian clergymen.

Although Laboa denied today that the Vatican had received formal charges, newsman Luis Manuel Martinez said in the progovernment newspaper CRITICA that Agostino Casaroli, Vatican secretary of foreign relations, has received "abundant photographic, documentary, and recorded evidence" of alleged political activities by the Panamanian Catholic Church.

In addition to McGrath, Bishop Jose Lacunza, Vicar Fernando Guardia, and priest Javier Villanueva have been criticized in Panama by progovernment newsmen and radio commentators.

"We are not in the Philippines, nor does the church here have a charismatic pastor like Cardinal Jaime Sin, who can attract and confuse the masses," Martinez said in his column.

CRITICA also published a photograph today with a circle identifying the priest, Dennis King, with the headline: "Priest dresses in civilian clothing to participate in protest movement."

According to the newspaper, the priest participated yesterday in a protest movement by teachers in Colon to demand the release of teacher Roberto Maclaughlin, who has been missing since 8 May.

"The open participation of Father Dennis King in these activities involving teachers proves once again that Catholic Church members are interfering in the political activities under way in our country," the paper said, accusing the church of encouraging "groups opposed to the present government."

Laboa said that he considers Garisto's charges to be "rash, since the Episcopal Conference has criticized the U.S. sanctions on various occasions."

The nuncio declined to describe relations between the church and the Panamanian regime as "tense," but said that the attacks "are worrisome, because they promote division and hatred."

In the past week, the Panamanian Catholic Church even threatened to apply to its main critics "penalties" provided for in canon law, including excommunication.

Replies to Envoy's Statement

PA1106031589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 10 Jun 89 pp A-1, A-3

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Sebastian Laboa told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA yesterday that the Holy See "has not received any complaint through appropriate channels" against the Catholic Church hierarchy. He expressed surprise over accusations against Archbishop Marcos McGrath made yesterday by Panamanian Ambassador Bruno Garisto.

Laboa told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA over the telephone that the Panamanian Government, through Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, yesterday expressed its "surprise, astonishment, and disagreement" over the diplomat's statement.

Garisto is the Panamanian ambassador to Italy, but not to the Vatican.

"We are surprised that an ambassador with his experience would act so rashly," Laboa said. He added that the statement was "slanderous" because the bishops and the Episcopal Conference (CEP) "have condemned U.S. sanctions on various occasions."

In a statement made yesterday to the Italian press agency ANSA, Garisto said that McGrath, leader of the Panamanian Catholic Church, was "encouraging divisions and promoting the crisis that currently affects all levels of society."

Garisto's statements included a call to the Vatican to "rectify the actions carried out by the Catholic Church," which, in his opinion, is being used as a U.S. "instrument."

"I spoke with Minister Ritter, who was not at all pleased with Garisto's remarks," Laboa said, adding that despite the attacks against the church carried in some local media, "there is no tension" in church-state relations.

McGrath, Bishop Jose Lacunza, Vicar Fernando Guardia and Father Fernando Xavier Villanueva have been called "seditious clergymen," "turncoats," and other insulting terms in the progovernment media.

The church has described the attacks as "unjust," and some church leaders have suggested measures such as "excommunicating" the offenders. "Those are rash statements made by a few [in the local media] who are used to manipulating everything and who would like the church to take a certain position, to stay inside the vestry, and to refrain from talking about justice and liberty," Laboa said.

Laboa added that the accusations and statements against the church "have united its hierarchy." He noted that they are worrisome, because "instead of promoting understanding, they encourage a climate of hatred and divisions" among Panamanians.

Laboa stressed that "excommunications" have a tremendous social impact on the community. He ruled out the possibility of implementing this measure at this time.

"I believe that there have been rash actions; however, they have served to unite the church, because no one can say that the decisions made by the church hierarchs have been merely political. The church is above the parties in conflict," Laboa concluded.

Legislator's Open Letter To Archbishop

PA0706193689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Jun 89 p 2

["Open Letter" to Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath, archbishop of Panama, from Rigoberto Paredes, Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator—date not given]

[Text] Last night I had a dream about my mother, a holy woman who prayed a lot and was a loyal and constant church goer. She died of cancer, despite many trips to Houston in efforts to save her life.

In this dream she told me: "Son, sometimes God makes straight paths crooked. Please do not bother Msgr McGrath anymore. Do not criticize him or quarrel with him in public. Say goodbye to Msgr McGrath."

My mother must be very close to God, in Heaven of course, because she knows that in 1968 when my family and I were the victims of a ferocious and unjust persecution by the Arias family—the Gilberto and Arnulfo Arias families—I went to McGrath seeking protection and help from the Church, my Catholic Church, and he closed the doors without even listening to me or allowing me to come in. This was at his home in Altos del Golf [high-income section of Panama City]. After that, I prayed to the Lord and I went out to defend my family. My children were very small. Here I am now, thank God, fighting for my fatherland.

I have decided to obey my mother, who from where she is, very close to God—the only God, the God that belongs to all of us—is asking me to say goodbye to Msgr McGrath.

Goodbye, Msgr McGrath.

Let us hope that with this goodbye, we will reflect on life and what is happening in the world.

Is it true that everything is an illusion? Is the struggle of our people for its full independence, its sovereignty, and rights over its territory and its canal a useless illusion?

When Jesus said that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God, was he defining the true option of the poor? Why then does the hierarchy of our Catholic Church seem to prefer the rich, but poor in spirit, over the ideals of the poor, who are rich in spirit and seeking better lives through the full use of the advantanges of our geographic position and the canal?

When an angry Jesus threw the merchants out of the temple, was he not through his spiritual magnificence determining his religious destiny? What about the divine precepts: "My kingdom is not of this world," and "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's"? Do they not clearly define the field of action of all those who should represent the son of God in this world? No one, not even someone availing himself of subjective interpretations, is empowered to change divine will, because the word of God cannot be altered and is eternal.

Those of us who are struggling for an ideal of national liberation are doing so with faith in the destiny of our people and hope we have divine support. We are willing to make the greatest sacrifice, because we sincerely believe that we are working for a noble cause to benefit the majority, the poor. We have not forgotten, however, that the majority of a people, incited by disinformation and slander, condemned Jesus and liberated Barrabas, and that there was Judas, who betrayed him, and that there was Peter, who first denied him three times and then founded the Church. Was my mother referring to these things in my dream when she told me that God makes straight paths crooked?

Is it, perhaps, that the Panamanian Catholic Church is convinced that God, our God, supports Manifest Destiny, the Monroe Doctrine, the Big Stick, the double morality policy, and the deaths in Vietnam, El Salvador, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Venezuela, and so many other policies followed by Yankee imperialism? That same imperialism is today unleashing a military, economic, psychological, political, and diplomatic war against the Panamanian people, and promoting acts of genocide by using the most refined techniques of disinformation and slander.

Those of us who are struggling for national liberation on the side of the people are ready to make sacrifices, though we are aware that it would have been much easier—and, above all, it would have been more profitable—if we had yielded to the empire of the Reagans and Bushes rather than assuming all the risks and problems that supporting the leader of a Panamanian nationalist cause and the patriotic peoples' organizations that are leading the movement of national liberation entails. Life and history will judge us and say we were right, because no great progress and social achievement can be made without struggle, risks, and sacrifices.

Goodbye, Msgr McGrath.

But before going, let me ask you a question: Why not double or triple the effort and all the influence of your standing in the United States to stop this unjust and criminal war that the government of the most powerful country in the world has declared on one of the smallest and most defenseless nations in the world that up until today had only been a naive partner, a good friend, and a lover of peace?

You know well that the problem is not the man. The problem might be many men, because the great battle for Panama, for its liberation, which has been waged since before 1903 by many men and women, has been a struggle of several generations, with God's blessing, because without this blessing Panama would not exist as a nation.

Last night I had a dream. I dreamed about my mother. She asked me to say goodbye to Msgr MGrath.

Goodbye, Msgr McGrath, and may God enlighten you and guide you for the sake of Panama.

Up there where you are in Heaven, Mother, say hello to the Lord and ask him to keep interceding on behalf of the Panamanian people.

[signed] Rigoberto Paredes

Noriega Reportedly Supported With Colombian Money

PA1006022389 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Jun 89 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Noriega's Regime Is Propped Up With Colombian Money"]

[Text] Unknowingly, we Colombians have propped up General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his president, Manuel Solis Palma. The regime, which runs Panama against the wishes of Panamanians and of people around the world, has been able to remain in power thanks to our money.

This is being said in all segments of Panamanian society, even in official circles, but in spite of this, there is a general feeling of friendliness toward Colombia.

Panamanian businessmen, transportation owners, and investors as well as foreigners residing in that country all agree that the government would not have been able to overcome many of its dollar and balboa (the national currency) problems had it not been for the funds it receives from Colombia.

Some of those funds come from drug trafficking and the rest from contraband.

A percentage of the price of every television set, carton of cigarettes, blender, computer, or any other product that Colombians obtain through contraband goes to the pockets of Noriega and his presidential nominee, Carlos Duque.

Panamanians explain that Transit, S.A., a company that operates from the Colon Free Zone in Panama, sends merchandise to San Andres Island, to the "Sanandresitos" stores in Colombia's largest cities, and to many other Colombian stores that sell contraband items along with domestic products.

Soviet Diplomat Meets IRHE Officials

PA1206021189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Jun 89 p 40

[Text] Yuriy Vislosov, the commercial attache of the Soviet Embassy in Costa Rica, met with top Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] officials with whom he exchanged views concerning the bilateral trade agreement between Panama and the USSR. They also discussed the upcoming visit to the USSR by Gustavo Gonzalez, the planning and economic policy minister. The meeting was headed by Ovigildo Herrera and other top IRHE officials.

Villalaz Named as New Alternate UN Envoy

PA1206024489 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Summary] The Information Secretariat of the Presidency today announced that Julio Yau Villalaz was named as Panama's alternate representative to the permanent mission of the United Nations.

High-Ranking FDP G-2 Officer 'Retired'

PA1006200889 Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 Jun (AFP)—Military sources today reported that Major Felipe Camargo, a high-ranking officer of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] security organization (G-2) who conducted investigations of opponents of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has been discharged.

Camargo, one of the G-2 deputy commanders and a member of the Strategic Military Council (CEM), was in charge of interrogating top National Civic Crusade leaders Roberto Brenes, Alberto Conte, and Carlos de la Lastra, who are now in exile. Better known as "Pipe,"

Camargo on various occasions denounced "the U.S. role" in the Panamanian crisis and the use of U.S. military bases to help Noriega opponents.

There has been no official explanation regarding the retirement of this officer, who was sent to Namibia in mid-April with a delegation of 23 officers "to supervise the independence process of that African nation." He spent 1 month there before returning to the country.

A military source told AFP that Camargo disobeyed orders given by Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, head of the military delegation to Namibia, and was charged with "desertion and indiscipline" for returning to Panama without official authorization.

Camargo was among the officers who stormed the Marriott Hotel last year and arrested about 10 opposition leaders and 12 international newsmen.

Opposition parliamentarian Guillermo Cochez publicly accused the officer of mistreating and even "torturing" opposition sympathizers he was in charge of interrogating.

Government Reviews Control of Radio Frequencies
PA1106232289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Jun 89 p A-1

[Text] The National Media Directorate held a second evaluation and consultation meeting to seek formulas that will permit greater vigilance to ensure the responsible use of radio frequencies authorized by the Government and the Justice Ministry. Present at the meeting were Journalist Luis Romero Villalobos, who heads the Government and Justice Ministry's National Media Directorate; Captain John Pimento, Panama Defense Forces communications chief; Vicente Rotandaro, Government and Justice Ministry telecommunications adviser; and several assistants.

Colon Free Zone Activity Increases in May
PA1006023089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The Colon Free Zone registered a significant increase in imports and reexports during May 1988, according to Raimundo Valencia, head of the Colon Free Zone's Statistics Department Planning Directorate. The report states that the zone registered 12,639 metric tons of imports valued at $112.6 million in May 1988, compared to an increase to 21,823 metric tons valued at $190.8 million in May 1989. As for reexports, 17,790 metric tons of merchandise valued at $170.1 million were reexported in May 1988, compared to 16,912 metric tons at $180.9 million in May 1989.

Argentina's Menem Sends Message to Solis Palma
PA1006023389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Jun 89 pp 1, 10

[Message from Argentine President-elect Carlos S. Menem to Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency—date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the Argentine people and in my own name, I thank the Panamanian Government for its congratulatory message. I also express my hope for the consolidation of Latin American democracy in the immediate future and for the strengthening of the friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to the minister in charge of the Presidency my highest and most distinguished esteem.

Carlos S. Menem

CRITICA Says OAS Must Make Decision
PA0906234589 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Jun 89 p 4

[Text] Although CRITICA has already taken a stand on the unreliability of the OAS as an impartial organization capable of seeking formulas of understanding between Panamanian political groups, we must take up the matter once again since the OAS commission has been given a 6-week extension in which to carry out its mandate.

Judging from the contradictory reactions of the opposition candidates over the past 24 hours, one can discern an initial disappointment with the OAS' decision, for the opposition expected different results. A Christian Democratic Party legislator went so far as to say that the OAS acronym in Spanish stood for: "Forget That Thing." ["Olvidemos Ese Asunto," (OEA)] This clearly shows that the opposition will favor the OAS if its decisions are favorable toward them. Otherwise, a snide remark will be directed toward the usefulness of that organization, as in the case just mentioned.

Therefore, how will the OAS Commission, returning to the country on 12 June, win approval from the conflicting sides for these "formulas of understanding?"

As we have warned, this is an impossible mission, because one cannot please two masters at once. Either the OAS pleases the empire and betrays the Latin American peoples, or it decides to give the United States a lesson, once and for all, in the same territory singled out by the domineering and arrogant power.

It is clear that the commission's foreign ministers are under pressure from their own peoples and fear setting a lethal precedent that may be applied against them in the near future. These factors inhibit their decisions.

In a way, those 6 weeks will once again corroborate something that the foreign ministers will be unable to ignore: that bitter feeling of meddling in matters that are solely and exclusively within the purview of our peoples. The OAS will not escape that stigma ever again, and in the end, it will have to decide between our peoples or the empire.

This is a bottleneck from which it will hardly escape unscathed, since the OAS can no longer be subject to the definition given to it by the opposition figure: "Forget that thing."

Party Communique Denounces U.S. 'Interference'
PA1006153189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The Torrijist Renewal Movement [Movimiento de Renovacion Torrijista—MRT] issued a communique today on the country's present situation. The communique noted that the U.S. Government's monstrous aggression against Panama made it apparent that the "establishment's" officials always planned to disregard the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The document added that the attacks against General Manuel Antonio Noriega are part of the U.S. experiments in physcological warfare. These experiments are aimed at alienating the Panamanian people and world opinion from the Panamanian Government.

The MRT also denounced U.S. interference in Panama's internal affairs, citing U.S. interference in Panama's recent elections, which it said resulted in the annulment of the elections. The communique expressed the party's complete support for the work done by former COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] candidate Carlos Duque Jaen. It stated that Duque Jaen had managed, in a truly Torrijist manner, the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] to victory in the past elections. The MRT also endorsed a national dialogue and the implementation of reforms for the benefit of the people.

PALA Finds ESTRELLA Cartoon Offensive
PA1106231889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Jun 89 pp 40, C-6

[Note dated 5 June 1989 sent by Labor Party to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA Director]

[Text] Mr Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, Director, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA:

Mr Director:

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA Sunday 4 June edition published a cartoon politically offensive to all former Labor Party [PALA] candidates.

The mentioned cartoon seeks to portray us as traitors because, according to the cartoonist, we were unable to get voters to vote in a coherent and unitary manner for the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] presidential, legislator, and representative candidates.

Although the message in the cartoon is not clear, we assume the criticism lies in this aspect; that is, in the division of votes by PALA members—voting for the opposition presidential candidate, and for the PALA candidate for the legislator or representative posts—division no one can prove.

Such evil ideas are absurd because PALA members worked with enthusiasm during the campaign and voted for our ticket, a PALA member being the first vice presidential candidate.

First of all, if the elections were annulled due to the various irregularities that took place on 7 May, which included the disappearance of vote tally sheets from voting tables, where did the cartoonist for LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA get his information? If this cartoonist knows where the [missing] vote tally sheets are, why has he not reported this? If he does not have the vote tally sheets, on what has he based his criticism? What is the purpose of this misrepresentation and falsehood?

This seems to be an expression of a most deliberate intention to systematically attack the PALA. We have experienced this before and during the elections, and also following the elections.

We could point out many things—and may have to do so soon—concerning the motives for this campaign, which comes from several sectarian COLINA groups.

In addition, the cartoon published yesterday reflects negative attitudes and bad faith, which undermine Panama's nationalist cause, because the intention behind this is to sow division.

Notwithstanding the fact that the cartoon perfectly matches the spirit of the slanted campaign a COLINA member party has unleashed against PALA and six other COLINA member parties—in a seemingly desperate effort to find scapegoats—we feel that the cartoon may be just one "goal" that was scored by taking advantage of the director's good faith.

We hope you will give this letter the prominence it deserves.

Very truly yours,

Antonio Cardona Mas, Francisco (Moyo) Icaza, Manuel Donato Jimenez Melo, Anel Ramirez, Hernan Arauz Torres, Gerardo de la Ossa, Rebeca G. de Lopez, Ruben Dario Beitia, Alfonso Montoya, Rogelio Castillo F., Carlos (Tito) Afu, Nicolas Alvarado M., Alvaro Mirando Cedeno, Ernesto Guzman, Anel Abrego, Julio Luque, Hector Manuel Espinoza, Paulino Romero, Juan de Dios Caballero, Julio Shaik, Enrique Victoria, Ramon Cardoze, Julio Cesar Ortiz, Jose (Pepe) Zamora, Carlos (Chombito) Garcia, Vanessa de Boyd, Alberto Velasquez, Eduardo de Obaldia, Fernando Samaniego.

Argentina

Minister Repudiates British 'Stubbornness'

PY0906171489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1504 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jun (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerutti has repudiated the "stubbornness of the British Government, which does not want to recognize the inalienable rights" of the Argentine people over the Malvinas Islands, and has charged it with creating an atmosphere of tension in the region. She also stressed the international solidarity expressed in the successive resolutions issued by the UN General Assembly, which Great Britain refuses to accept.

Ruiz Cerutti addressed Foreign Ministry personnel on the occasion of the day of Argentine rights over the Malvinas Islands and the islands of the South Atlantic, which will be celebrated tomorrow. In her speech, the minister said that Argentina will not accept preconditions for any peaceful negotiation that is advocated by the civilized community that has expressed solidarity with Argentina.

She said that the democratic Argentine Government has shown endless patience in maintaining principles that have been strengthened through the cooperation and the solidarity of the whole civilized community, and especially of the fraternal Latin American countries.

Armed Forces Reaffirm Rights to Falklands

PY0906160089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1420 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jun (NA)—The Armed Forces today reaffirmed Argentina's rights over the Malvinas Islands and called on future national officials "to make every effort to recover the beloved territory."

Captain Luis d'Imperio, speaking on behalf of the Armed Forces Joint Command, said that "British stubbornness aimed at prolonging an absurd situation created the conditions for the deeds that occurred on 2 April."

Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino said in a message that the Army "will not cease in its efforts to fulfill the tasks assigned by the political power, in either peace or war, to insure our full rights."

He added: "As citizens and soldiers we will never relinquish our aspiration to see our sovereign rights in the south definitely consolidated."

Air Force Chief of Staff General Ernesto Crespo said that "what has been done so far has not been in vain, despite the fact that we have not yet achieved the international recognition of our rights."

Crespo said: "Recognition does not only depend on the perseverance of our claim, but basically on the respect that we as a country can get from the international community."

He concluded by saying that the respect will be achieved "by eliminating antagonisms, disagreements, and sectorial and personal interests which only show a hesitant, weak, and incapable country."

The ceremony on the day for the affirmation of Argentine rights began at 0800 on the parade grounds of the Libertad Building, where Gen Gassino's message was read.

Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena headed the main act in the headquarters of the Armed Forces Joint Command in the presence of its chief, General Teodoro Waldner.

Secretaries Octavio Gauna, Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini, and Daniel Castro also attended the ceremony.

The Air Force ceremony was held at 1200 in the Condor Building and the naval ceremony in the Libertad Building.

Defense Minister Denies Indiscipline in Army

PY0906184289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Report from the Defense Ministry by Carlos Aglud]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena today flatly denied the remarks made by Deputy Cesar Jaroslavsky, who said that one of these days there could be acts of indiscipline within the Army by sectors supporting Mohamed Ali Seineldin and Aldo Rico.

Herewith are Jaunarena's remarks:

[Begin Jaunarena recording] All I can tell you is what you have already seen on the streets; that is, the pasting of some posters and a campaign of psychological actions, which you must have also noted, but hardly anything else. There are appropriate mechanisms to ensure that discipline will continue to prevail in the Army, as has been the case so far. [end recording]

When we asked the minister if the Army leadership has expressed its concern to him—that is, if there could be some annoyance within Army units in the interior of the country—the minister said the following:

[Begin Jaunarena recording] No, no, no. Except for the usual annoyance over this type of pasting of posters and some rumormongering through press reports, there is nothing that would make us think that we are facing something like that again. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bolivia

IU Labels U.S. Troops 'Military Intervention'

PY1306001689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2122 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] La Paz, 11 Jun (EFE)—The United Left (IU), the most important Bolivian opposition force, today denounced the joint U.S.-Bolivian military exercises because they "violate the national Constitution."

IU leader Antonio Aranibar Quiroga said that last year the Bolivian Congress approved the U.S. military presence only to carry out work on the Pati-Pati hill (Potosi), located 570 km south of La Paz, to enlarge the Capitan Rojas Airport.

The Information Ministry announced on 10 June that 300 U.S. troops from the Southern Command stationed in Panama will arrive on 12 June to carry out maneuvers with Bolivian troops called "United Forces-89," involving civil action work in the Bolivian altiplano.

According to an official communique released by the government, the decision to carry out the "United Forces-89" operation was made during a meeting held on 8 June by the Bolivian Defense Ministry and U.S. officials in La Paz.

Deputy Aranibar said that the joint military exercises outside of the demolition work at Pati-Pati hill are a violation of Bolivian sovereignty.

Aranibar added that he is surprised by the decision by Bolivian Government officials, who obtained a congressional permit for the arrival of the U.S. troops only to carry out demolition work on the hill.

The IU announced that June will be declared a month of defense of national sovereignty in protest of what he labeled "U.S. military intervention."

Forced Eradication of Coca Crops To Begin

PY0906134489 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Interior Minister Eduardo Perez Beltran has said that DIRETO [National Directorate of Coca Eradication] will contract civilian personnel to carry out the eradication of coca in the zones declared illegal as of 23 July 1989.

Perez Beltran indicated that the forced eradication will be done by hand and that no chemicals or herbicides will be used. He also said that if the contracted personnel need help, the government will provide aid through UMOPAR [Mobil Units for Rural Areas] in order to comply with Law 1008. He added that the law clearly specifies that within 1 year of its promulgation the forced eradication of illegal and nontraditional crops must begin. Perez Beltran said:

[Begin recording] Law 1008 clearly establishes that the illegal coca growing zones, the zones which are not used for traditional crops or not allowed by law, must be eradicated by force if it is not begun voluntarily within 1 year of the promulgation of Law 1008. This law was promulgated on 22 July 1988. We will have to enforce it as of 23 July, not because the government wants to but because it has an obligation to enforce the law. [end recording]

Perez Beltran also said that so far he has not received the report from the committee in charge of investigating the illegal issuance of passports to Chinese citizens. He added that the report should be officially submitted to him in the next few hours and that, along with the foreign minister, they will establish who is responsible for this illegal action.

$7 Million Debt to Switzerland Renegotiated

PY1006131389 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Government yesterday signed an agreement for the renegotiation of its debt with Switzerland. The pertinent documents were signed by Peruvian Planning Minister Fernando Candia and Swiss Ambassador (Georg Von Hause). The renegotiated debt stands at $7 million and covers the consolidation period 1 July 1988 to 31 December 1989. The first payment on the principal was postponed until 15 November 1995, while the last payment will be made before 15 May 1999.

In accordance with the agreements reached during the last meeting of the Paris Club, Bolivia will pay initial interest on this debt on 30 July 1989. Other payments will be made every 6 months. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet on Amnesty Law, Support for Jarpa

PY1006022089 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet this morning in Iquique said he supports the implementation of a broad amnesty law to finally end the debates and investigations over alleged violations of human rights. He also expressed his support for the presidential candidacy of Sergio Onofre Jarpa.

President Pinochet referred to several topics during a breakfast meeting with members of the media who are covering his tour of the First Region. Regarding the human rights issue, Pinochet said: I must say that the subject is closed. There will be no more investigations of violations of human rights; people will no longer make money on these investigations and on discussions of this topic. Their source of income is finished. Pinochet added: This decision may or may not result in the implementation of a broad amnesty law. Pinochet explained that such cases are not all black or white.

He said that trials for human rights violations should end and that the only honest way of dealing with them is to stop them. Pinochet also said that a broad amnesty law would not be a scandal, as certain sectors of the opposition assert.

[Begin Pinochet recording] If we want to see these things stopped, we must finally end them. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Pinochet added that the human rights issue must be solved and closed during his administration, no matter what the rest of the world says. Those who talk about violations of human rights do not realize they are talking about dangerous things.

Pinochet also said that he highly appreciates Sergio Onofre Jarpa. He said Jarpa would be a good president of the Republic, and that he indirectly supports him. Pinochet believes Jarpa will be able to unite the center-right sector because he is a great leader. Pinochet also said that no center-right party will be able to name a candidate and that this sector should unite.

Commenting on the upcoming elections, Pinochet said that with such widespread disunity the parties will not achieve any of their goals. Pinochet also said he does not fear for himself, but he is concerned about his aides and trusted people.

He said the government could not create new leaders because the organizations that should have done so were used by some smart people to create elitist parties. [passage omitted] [passage omitted]

Pinochet will return to Santiago tonight after a 4-day tour of the First Region.

Catholic Church Protests

PY1006185989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Santiago, 9 Jun (EFE)—The Vicariate of Solidarity, the Chilean Catholic Church's humanitarian organization, has protested General Augusto Pinochet's statement that a new amnesty law will be studied.

The Vicariate, which was created by the Santiago Archbishopric in 1976 to oppose human rights violations, asserted that this new amnesty law, in addition to the one promulgated in 1978, "would prevent any possibility of establishing the truth and of punishing the guilty parties."

The 1978 amnesty discontinued the trials against the military regime's security agents who violated human rights, especially those involved in the cases of the 743 people who had been detained or were missing.

In the Vicariate's opinion, "the serious human right violations committed during these 16 years have deeply wounded Chilean society. If human rights continue to be violated, real reconciliation will never be achieved in the country."

The Vicariate stated that "requests for clarification of the most serious crimes have not been answered."

The Chilean Commission for Human Rights, which is presided over by Christian Democratic leader Jaime Castillo, has already reported that 15,405 people have been murdered and 2,200 have been reported missing since the 11 September 1973 military coup.

It has also reported that 164,000 Chileans were exiled—a decree put an end to exile in 1988—while 155,000 were imprisoned in 16 concentration camps. There are currently 433 political prisoners in the country, including 44 women.

Pinochet To Call Constitutional Plebiscite

PY1006160589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] On Friday 16 June, the president of the Republic will call a plebiscite on the constitutional amendments. The plebiscite, therefore, may take place on 31 July or in the 1st week of August.

This information was released by Brigadier General Oscar Vargas, minister secretary general of government, during a news conference. Vargas also said that he expects the government junta to sign the draft law containing the amendments on 12 or 14 June.

Vargas made it clear that if the legislative branch signs the draft law on 12 June, Pinochet could call the plebiscite on Friday, 16 June; that is, during a workday. He added that the plebiscite to approve the constitutional reforms does not entail a confrontation:

[Begin Vargas recording] The plebiscite does not entail a confrontation because it will be called to improve the Constitution; in this task, the government, the pro-government, and the opposition parties will participate. Therefore, there cannot be a confrontation. I believe the propaganda [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Asked whether the government has contacted the opposition sector in this regard, Vargas said that working meetings will be held next week to discuss the issue.

Australia To Receive Protest Over Buschmann

PY1206033089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0018 GMT 12 Jun 89

[Text] Santiago, 11 Jun (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz today announced that the military government of General Augusto Pinochet will submit a "formal and strong" protest to Australia regarding the deportation of Chilean extremist Sergio Buschmann.

Buschmann, who visited Australia, is wanted by Chilean aurhorities for his alleged participation in the unsuccessful attack against Gen Pinochet in 1986 and for his escape from a Chilean jail. This is why Chile requested that the Australian Government extradite him.

Errazuriz said that the Chilean Foreign Ministry "has been informed regarding the deportation of Sergio Buschmann."

He added that "the Foreign Ministry is aware that the Australian Government has decided to prevent a terrorist from staying in its territory. However, his expulsion has obstructed justice."

Errazuriz said that "the Chilean Foreign Ministry disagrees with the Australian decision. The complete record with evidence on this case delivered by the Chilean Government should have served to extradite Buschmann to our country to be tried in accordance with the formal extradition request made."

He added that "the Chilean Government has taken before the Australian Government all the necessary steps to bring the terrorist Buschmann to a Chilean court, and it will continue to request his arrest from any country that gives him refuge."

Buschmann resides in Sweden and acts as European spokesman for the ultra-leftist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front.

Chilean military officials affirm that the front is the "armed branch of the illegal Chilean Communist Party," but this has been denied by Chilean communist leaders.

Former Air Force Commander Murdered

PY0906151089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1441 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Santiago, 9 Jun (TELAM-ANSA)—Former Chilean Air Force Commander Roberto Fuentes Morrison was shot dead this morning while heading for his office in Nunoa District, in the greater Santiago area. The military officer was shot from a car that was stolen 4 days ago and was used by the criminals to flee.

Fuentes Morrison was a member of the National Intelligence Directorate (DINA), an organization that was replaced by the National Intelligence Center (CNI), which participated in the struggle against subversion.

The murdered officer used to belong to the "Joint Command" of the DINA, an organization made up of military and civilian personnel. He was also sued for allegedly violating human rights and committing torture.

FPMR Claims Responsibility

PY1006005889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] An AFP cable has been received at our international terminal today. The cable, datelined Santiago, 9 Jun 1989, states:

The Chilean guerrilla group Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) today claimed responsibility for the murder of Roberto Fuentes Morrison, a former government secret agent, who was charged with kidnaping and killing people who opposed President Augusto Pinochet's military regime.

The FPMR, quote, feels free to punish those responsible for torturing and killing people who oppose the Chilean dictatorship because the courts do not sentence them, [no ending quote as heard], a spokeswoman told the media by phone.

The cable adds: A group of at least five subversives today machinegunned Fuentes as he was leaving his home in the eastern part of Santiago.

FPMR spokeswoman Mariela Vargas said Fuentes was a member of the Joint Command [Comando Conjunto], a repressive death squad that operated in the country in 1976. The Command was made up of civilians and members of the Navy, the Air Force, the Carabineros, the Investigative Police, and the dismantled DINA (National Intelligence Directorate).

The Command is held responsible for detaining some 30 leftists, many of whom are still missing. Fuentes and 39 other secret agents, chiefs of the security services, and members of the Armed Forces were sentenced for the disappearance of 13 of those leftists, but in 1986 they received an amnesty for those crimes.

The cable continues: Fuentes, an Air Force squadron commander also known as Wally, headed the Command for some time. He later worked as a decryption expert in the Chilean Embassy in South Africa.

The cable concludes by stating that the spokeswoman for the FPMR—which was created 6 years ago by the outlawed Communist Party—has asserted that the FPMR has identified several government security agents in addition to Fuentes and closely watches their daily activities.

Peru

People's Role Against Subversion Stressed

PY0906033389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Defense Minister Julio Velasquez Giacarini has stated that the people play an important role in the struggle against subversion. He added that the people must therefore cooperate with the armed forces and police. This is their civic and patriotic duty.

[Begin recording] [Velasquez] This is my message to the people: I want to stress the importance of the people in the struggle against subversion. I think the people are an essential element in this struggle. Moreover, in my message that was broadcast by all media, I made a call to all citizens in general, to society and all its organizations, to join forces. This is the only way we will defeat subversion. I want to reiterate that we must work together against subversion.

The antisubversive war must be conducted in all sectors: political, economic, social, and military. As I said yesterday, perhaps the military is not the most important element. This task belongs to everyone.

This is my message to the people: We must be united, joining forces to the last drop of blood, if possible, but united. We will be successful only if we are united. Otherwise, the objective will be much more difficult to achieve.

[Reporter] But Mr Minister, subversion is acting freely. We even had attacks a few blocks away from Government Palace. What can we do?

[Velasquez] Are you referring to subversion or to the actions the subversives use? Because these are acts and methods used by subversion. We cannot make comparisons based on unknown facts. At this moment only four people can disturb the entire country. Only four people. So, it is not just a question of troops. Only three or four people carried out this attack. But we must take into account the methods, the techniques, the surprise factor they obtain by mixing in with the people. It is very difficult to identify them. Right now I do not know whether you are of the right or not. I do not know whether that cameraman is a member of the Shining Path or not. This is certainly an exaggerated example, but it gives you an idea of how difficult it is to find the enemy. We do not even know where they operate, nor the individuals who are operating. To find and identify them is a very difficult task. This can be achieved, as I said, only through a joint effort. The people play a very important role in this task. Each and every Peruvian who loves democracy, as an essential element ruling our society and our life, must be united. This is the only way.

Subversives are not interested in winning geographic areas. They are not trying to overrun cities. They want the people. They want to dominate the minds of the people. We can only say that they are winning the war to the extent to which they are conquering the people, the minds of the people. But it has been demonstrated that most democratic sectors of this country reject subversion. [end recording]

21 Terrorists Killed in Clashes With Military

PY1006124589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0730 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Lima, 9 Jun (EFE)—It was officially reported here today that 21 members of the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group have died during clashes with military forces in the Andean Departments of Apurimac and Ayacucho, southeast of Lima.

Peruvian Army sources consulted by the state news agency ANDINA reported that 15 Shining Path terrorists were killed in the Naramara Lake region, in Abancay Province. The city of Abancay, 970 km from Lima, is the capital of Apurimac Department.

The sources reported that David Orosco, alias "Comrade Merino," was one of the terrorists killed during a clash. Officials believe Orosco headed the local Shining Path main forces. In Piscacocha, a town located in Parinacochas Province in the south of Ayacucho Department, the Army clashed with a Shining Path column and killed six terrorists.

The reports do not state when these clashes occurred, but point out that the patrols have seized at least 10 guns, hundreds of sticks of dynamite, homemade bombs, ammunition, and a great deal of propaganda material.

The death of these 21 terrorists increases the number of victims of political violence in Peru in June to 75. Policemen, military, peasants, and civilian authorities are included among these dead.

The Shining Path has killed more than 14,000 people in Peru since it started operating in 1980.

More on Guerrilla Leader's Death

PY1106010289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0026 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Lima, 10 Jun (TELAM-DPA)—According to press reports in Lima today, David Orosco Tello ("Comrade Merino"), third in command of the Shining Path guerrilla group, died during a clash with a Peruvian Army military patrol in Apurimac Department, southeast of Lima.

According to the press, the Army patrol killed 15 Shining Path guerrillas in a clash on 5 June, but Orosco Tello was only yesterday identified by military and forensic experts of the Apurimac Department Political and Military Command.

The guerrilla group reportedly suffered 15 casualties, while none of the military men were killed. After the clash, the army seized a light automatic rifle (FAL), 2 Mauser rifles, 250 sticks of dynamite, 22 homemade bombs, 6 cartridge pouches, a large amount of slow fuse and detonator cord, maps, notebooks, and passports.

The Army reported that in another clash with the Shining Path that took place in the Parinacochas Province of Ayacucho Department, southeast of Lima, six guerrillas were killed and a small arsenal—three Mauser rifles, ammunition for FAL, Uzi, and AKN rifles, dynamite, and propaganda material—was seized.

45 Peasants Killed for Violating Work Stoppage

PY1206005489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1906 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Lima, 11 Jun (EFE)—It was reported in Lima today that at least 45 peasants were murdered by Shining Path guerrillas in several towns in Huancavelica Province because the peasants worked on days during which the terrorists had called for an "armed stoppage."

The Lima dailies reported that according to police sources, the murders occurred early in the morning of 9 June and that the report of the killings was made by witnesses yesterday.

The police reported that the terrorists shot to death 45 peasants after holding so-called "popular trials" in the municipal parks of Cocas, Chiris, and San Gallaico of Huancavelica Province, which is located 440 km southeast of Lima.

The Shining Path called for an "armed stoppage" from 5 to 7 June. The police were informed that the terrorists murdered the peasants because they worked on those days.

The police said that "it was a synchronized Shining Path action to murder the defenseless peasants for not obeying the 'armed stoppage.'"

Interior Ministry spokesmen told EFE that they are waiting for the Huancavelica police to release a communique.

On 10 June, military spokesmen reported that 21 Shining Path terrorists were killed in a clash with Army troops in various zones of the Apurimac and Ayacucho Departments, which border Huancavelica southeast of Lima.

To date this month polical violence in Peru has caused 120 deaths, including soldiers and policemen.

Venezuela

Police Strike After Firing of 10 Officials

Ordered Back To Work

PA1006043589 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Metropolitan Police and government representatives still have not reached an agreement allowing policemen to return to their jobs. Meanwhile, police officials are hoping a solution will be found soon.

[Begin recording] [Federal District Governor Virgilo Avila] My communique said all those who are not back on their jobs before 1800 will be dismissed from the police.

[Reporter] That applies to all...

[Avila, interrupting] To all of them.

[Reporter] What will happen to the persons who compose the self-organization group [comando de propia organizacion]?

[Avila] We filed suits against them, and they will continue their normal activities within the legal framework.

[Police Inspector Edgar Lopez] We have just one answer: Get ready to dismiss 8,000 Metropolitan police officers. We will not let the governor's measures intimidate us. Our demands are fair and legal. We are entitled to them as members of this police corps. We are not rebelling against the government; we are not taking up arms. We are demanding the reinstatement of the 10 officers who belong to the commission [not further identified] and who were dismissed for alleged leftist actions. That charge is totally false. [end recording]

The Armed Forces of National Cooperation will be in charge of patrolling and protecting Caracas and five other cities that are without police forces until the dispute is settled.

Army Takes Over Installations

PA1006173789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Caracas, 10 Jun (AFP)—Army troops at dawn today took over the installations of the Metropolitan Police (PM) of Caracas, which had been "reorganized" after 10,000 policemen declared a sit-down strike on Thurday, 8 June, a government communique states.

The communique adds that the Armed Forces "have temporarily occupied PM installations where rebellious groups who refused to render services to the public have gathered."

As of noon (1600 GMT) today, no disturbances had been reported during the occupation of police installations.

Caracas Governor Virgilio Avila, on the evening of Friday, 9 June, ordered the reorganization of the PM after his ultimatum to resume work at 1800 (2200 GMT) was ignored by a majority of striking policemen.

The strike exploded on Thursday, 8 June, when 10 PM chiefs who were members of a commission assigned to reorganize the police force were fired.

The strike took place after the dissident policemen announced their own draft law for the reorganization of the force.

In addition to better wages and professional improvements, the strikers demanded that PM career officers hold the institution's top-level positions that until now have been filled by members of the National Guard, which sent troops to the streets last Friday to handle the emergency.

The communique reiterated today that "a total reorganization" has been declared in the PM and that members who "were unable to carry out their duties" because they were "following orders from their superiors" will not be punished "and will be allowed to continue performing their police duties."

However, "members of the police corps who as of 1800 yesterday had not resumed their regular duties will be fired from the police force and will be punished accordingly," the document adds.

The government said that the measures "have no other purpose than to restore order and guarantee normal activities without unrest of any kind."

Four Policemen Wounded

PA1006212589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1913 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Caracas, 10 Jun (AFP)—It was officially reported that at least four policemen, among them a member of the militarized National Guard, were wounded in clashes with members of the Metropolitan Police (PM) during the occupation of police headquarters early this morning.

At 1810 GMT (1410), Caracas Radio Rumbos reported that a special PM brigade stationed at the Police General Command in the north central Caracas area of Cotiza refused to hand over its weapons to the Armed Forces.

PM headquarters in Caracas and in the neighboring Miranda State were occupied early this morning following government orders to carry out a "complete reorganization" of the PM and to put an end to the strike by 10,000 policemen, which began 8 June. The strikers had ignored an ultimatum issued by Caracas Governor Virgilio Avila, who urged them to go back to work by 2200 GMT (1800) on Friday. It was unofficially reported that some 29 PM agents are under arrest.

Miranda State Governor Angel Zambrano—whose jurisdiction includes the bedroom communities of Guarenas and Los Teques—said that four police officers were slightly injured. He categorically denied persistent rumors about clashes and deaths. Residents of Guarenas, 40 km east of Caracas, reported hearing explosions early this morning.

Zambrano reported that a National Guard lieutenant, a military member, and two policemen were "slightly injured" during the PM's efforts to resist the military occupation of their headquarters. "There were no clashes. Some policemen resisted the occupation, resulting in some incidents, although efforts were made to prevent excessive violence," he said.

The conflict began when 10 police officers who were members of a reorganizing commission for the police corps were dismissed. They were fired shortly after they published a draft document for reorganization. The PM basically demanded the appointment of career officers to the institutions's top positions now occupied by National Guard members. Governor Avila announced today that an agreement was reached with President Carlos Andres Perez whereby PM officers will be members of the command, so that the police corps can have a voice in solving its own problems.

Army General To Head Police

PA1106155889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1501 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Caracas, 11 June (DPA)—The Venezuelan Government has appointed Army Division General Gonzalo Bajares Colmenares head of the Metropolitan Police (PM), replacing National Guard [GN] General Jose Rafael Leon Orsoni in that police corps' reorganization.

Last Thursday approximately 8,000 policemen began a strike on 8 June protesting the dismissal of 10 officers, including leaders of a campaign for socioeconomic demands for the police corps. One of their demands was that the institution be commanded by police officers and not by GN (militarized) members.

The PM (a state prevention agency) strike gradually gained support, prompting the government to order the occupation of PM facilities in Caracas and part of Miranda State by the Army and the National Guard early yesterday morning.

Policemen and GN members were wounded as a result of this action, unprecendented in the country's modern history. According to reports published in the local media today, several PM officers were arrested and their homes raided.

Last night, the Presidency of the Republic announced a total reorganization of the police corps and its socioeconomic structures.

The decision was adopted by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre, Defense Minister Italo Del Valle Alliegro, Caracas Governor Virgilio Avila Vivas, Miranda State Governor Angel Zambrano, GN Commanders Ramon Contreras Laguado, and outgoing PM Commander Gen Rafael Leon Orsini.

Caracas Governor Avila Vivas announced that a commission headed by General Josue Fragachan Ochoa, who will be accompanied by PM Commissaries Villa Real Viscaya, Garcia Rivas, and Mujica Sanchez, will be in charge of the reorganization process. He also urged all policemen to resume their activities between today and tomorrow "because the situation is totally normal."

Meanwhile, the defense minister sent a message to the police forces urging them to realize that "violence is not the best path to achieve your goals."

Clashes Reported in Acarigua, Other Areas

PA1006165789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 10 Jun 89

[Text] Acarigua, Venezuela, 9 Jun (AFP)—A 14-year-old youth suffered serious burns today when demonstrators set an Agriculture and Livestock Ministry vehicle on fire during the 2d day of demonstrations in Acarigua, 270 km southwest of Caracas, the local INNAC [Informaciones Nacionales] news agency reported today.

Demonstrations have disrupted commercial activities in this city. There were violent clashes on Friday between demonstrators and members of the National Guard that resulted in the arrest of 104 youths and 64 adults, according to Police Commander Major Enrique Castellanos.

Windows in the municipal building were shattered by stones thrown by the demonstrators, INNAC reported.

INNAC did not specify the reasons for the demonstrations in Acarigua, the capital of Portuguesa State, which is noted for its beef industry. The arrest of a university student on Thursday in the Andean city of Valera led to serious disorders in Merida, 600 km southwest of Caracas, also in the Andean region.

In Merida, there was looting in a supermarket and mobs burned two trucks transporting food and a policeman's motorcycle. Two university students were wounded.

Also on Thursday in Ocumare del Tuy, a town located 40 km southeast of Caracas, student demonstrations against noncompliance with the preferential transportation fares also resulted in major clashes that left six policemen and dozens of students injured.

* Brazil, Guyana To Build Highway in Essequibo

33480191 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 May 89 p A-1

[Text] Georgetown (AFP)—A spokesman for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has announced in Georgetown that the agreement for the construction of a highway that will unite Brazil and Guyana through the Essequibo, a territory to the west of Guyana that Venezuela claims as its own, was concluded this week.

The Minister of Transportation, Jules Kranenburg, held several conversations this week with representatives from the Brazilian company Paranapanema to finalize the details of the construction.

In recent years the highway construction project has been the source of numerous debates, and it was feared that Venezuela might be opposed to it because of its passage through the Essequibo. However, official sources said that Venezuela no longer objects to the project.

Suriname

Lachmon, Brunswijk Sign Accord 'in Principle'

FL0906114889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Suriname's parliamentary chairman and the leader of the country's rebel movement have signed an agreement in principle to end the rebellion. Jaggernath Lachmon and Ronnie Brunswijk made the accord after 2 days of talks in French Guiana.

The pact takes effect after it is signed by Surinamese President Ramsewak Shankar, and that is expected to take place soon. It provides for the lifting of the state of emergency in eastern Suriname and the repatriation of several thousand Surinamese refugees in French Guiana. A mixed commission will also be established to make sure the agreement is carried out.

Rebel Demands Reported

FL0906181289 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The peace discussions which were held in French Guiana between an assembly delegation led by Jaggernath Lachmon and a delegation from the terrorist gang led by Ronnie Brunswijk have resulted in an agreement at the level of intention.

In the agreement, it stated that the hostilities in the interior must be stopped. The hostilities will officially be stopped after the government accepts the agreement. These discussions will be possible following the ceasing of hostilities.

In the letter of intention, a number of measures which must be taken to establish peace are listed. The government will install a commission which must investigate which points in the letter of intention are in accordance with the national interest.

The discussions took place last Wednesday and Thursday [7 and 8 June] on the island (Postal) in the Marowijne River near the French Guianese border town, San Laurent.

Apart from Jaggernath Lachmon, the assembly delegation also included (Rufus Nooitmeer), (Milton Belgrave), and [word indistinct] of the National Assembly, (Edward Cloe). The delegation returned to Paramaribo yesterday after dark.

The terrorist gang of Ronnie Brunswijk has during the peace discussions with the assembly delegation led by Jaggernath Lachmon stated a few conditions which must lead to a halt of hostilities in the eastern part of Suriname.

One of these conditions is that a commission is installed by the government which must control the honoring of the cease-fire. This commission, which must be installed

in deliberation with the National Assembly and the terrorists, must be organized to investigate offenses in relation to the halt of hostilities.

The terrorist group furthermore warns the National Army to withdraw from the interior immediately after the cease-fire. The terrorists also demand that they participate in the police force which has the task of implementing order and peace in the interior.

The gang has further proposed to amend certain parts of the Constitution and the postponement [as heard] of the amnesty law.

The Assembly delegation has also received a list with agenda points for further peace negotiations. The points are, among others, in relation to aspects of humanitarian, political administration, social, economic, and military nature.

As long as these conditions are not honored, the gang will keep on occupying the villages which they now control. The leader of the Assembly delegation, Lachmon, yesterday, however, told the press that these are not demands in principle.

Government Team Leads Crash Investigation

FL1006113289 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] An 11-man commission has been installed which must, together with American experts, investigate the cause of Wednesday's [7 June] airplane disaster.

Shortly before landing, an aircraft of the Suriname Airways, the (Anthony Nesti), crashed last Wednesday. Up to now 169 bodies have been recovered, while 14 persons are still in hospital. Ninety men, 10 children, and 69 women have lost their lives in the disaster. Two babies are still missing.

Justice Minister Jules Ajodhia said yesterday during a press conference that the official identification will start tomorrow. After that, the bodies will be immediately released, said Minister Ajodhia. The minister is leading a government team of four ministers which coordinates activities in relation to the disaster.

The black box has in the meantime been sent to the United States of America. This box will be opened in the presence of the Surinamese ambassador and other experts.

Pathologists and disaster experts from Holland have arrived in Suriname to help with the identification of the victims. The Dutch Government has furthermore made refrigeration units available. Various governments, among which are Guyana, Venezuela, and France, have sent condolence messages in relation to the disaster.

The biggest concern of the government at the moment is to suppress the pain of the relatives of those who were killed in the air disaster. This was said by Justice Minister Jules Ajodhia yesterday during a press conference. The minister is leading a crisis team in which furthermore his colleagues from foreign affairs, public health, economic affairs are participating. The government has, among others, installed a team of conduct experts. This will take care of psychological guidance of the survivors and relatives of the victims. Furthermore, these applications are being speeded up.

Special facilities are also being created in relation to the arrival of relatives from Holland to the Zanderij airport. Suriname Airways, SLM, has hired an aircraft from the Dutch airline company, KLM, to transport relatives and the dead bodies of those killed in the (?recent) air disaster in Suriname. The hired aircraft is a Boeing 747 which has the capacity to accommodate [words indistinct].

The aircraft will arrive in Suriname today with the relatives from Holland. The SLM office in Holland is now registering relatives of the victims of the disaster. In the meantime, the SLM has made two plane tickets available to the relatives of each victim in Holland. If the victims are identified in time, the KLM aircraft will leave on Sunday for Holland with the majority of the victims on board.

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